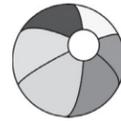




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- OCA on Your Side: Testified at Water Infrastructure Hearing
- Conferences for a Clean Ocean
- Blue Vision Summit 4

## May 2013 Highlights



**TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**  
Attend the Waves of Action Back to the Beach Ball on Saturday, May 18! Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel Asbury Park, NJ

LABEL



Clean Ocean Action  
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2  
Highlands, NJ 07732  
732-872-0111  
www.CleanOceanAction.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help our ocean! Volunteers can sign-up for an entire event, or a shorter portion of time.

### 5/4/13 Bridgewater Eco Blast

Kid Street Park, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater  
11am-3pm

### 5/4/13 Rockaway Waterfront Alliance Earth Day

MoMA PS1 Dome  
Beach 94th Street and Shorefront Parkway 12pm-4pm

### 6/1/13 Galloway GreenFest

Historic Smithville Village 10am-4pm

### Ocean Fun Days

6/8/13 Island Beach State Park 11am-3pm  
6/9/13 Sandy Hook 11am-3pm

### 6/15/13 Cape May Harbor Fest

Nature Center of Cape May 10am-5pm

COA is also looking for a part-time office volunteer to assist with administrative tasks. If you are willing to donate an hour a day to a few days a week to help with mailers, data entry, or office odd-jobs, please contact Zach at [citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org)

## TRIBUTES

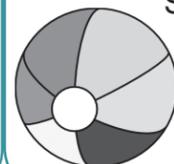


In honor of Margo Pellegrino

## BACK TO THE BEACH BALL SUPPORT COA'S WAVES OF ACTION

### Save the Date – Saturday, May 18th

Asbury Park, NJ – Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel  
LIVE reggae by Predator Dub Assassins  
\$30 per person in advance, \$35 at the door  
Tasty Bites served by Kitschens Catering  
Coffee by Booskerdoo Fresh Coffee Roasters  
CASH bar



So far we have sent over 10, 000 volunteers to over 100 projects in NJ and NY. With your help we can continue to support coastal communities with their recovery efforts.

## PO SPOTLIGHT

### Ocean Wreck Divers



Since Superstorm Sandy, many organizations and groups have stepped forward to activate their memberships to help communities recover. One of those groups is the Ocean Wreck Divers (OWD) of New Jersey. Each month, OWD has helped spread the word about Waves of Action, and has sent many volunteers to the beaches, marshes and waterways that needed to be cleared of debris. The club's mission of environmental conservation and recreational enjoyment of a healthy ocean make them a perfect match and longstanding member of our coalition.

"OWD's concerns on the past, current & future state of our ocean has prompted the club to take a more active role. We are getting more involved by promoting and supporting Clean Ocean Action and coming up with more fundraisers so we can continue to make donations to such worthy causes!" said Joe Conrey, Public Relations Officer for the group.

For more information on the Ocean Wreck Divers of New Jersey, visit [www.oceanwreckdivers.com](http://www.oceanwreckdivers.com), or visit Facebook & search for Ocean Wreck Divers.

### COA's 25th Annual Student Summit!

A seaside symposium for middle school students that expands learning beyond the classroom with hands-on, marine and environmental education. This year, programs and topics will be focused on the causes and effects of Superstorm Sandy.

**Tuesday, May 21 and  
Wednesday, May 22, 2013**

9:00am-12:30pm  
Gateway National Recreation Area,  
Sandy Hook, NJ  
Application deadline: May 1, 2013  
For more information and to download the application visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org)

## 2012 BEACH SWEEP REPORT DATA RELEASED



COA staff was joined by middle school student and Beach Captain Peter Donnelly and Sea Bright Volunteer Coordinator Frank Lawrence at the Beach Sweep Report Press Conference in Long Branch. Poster of the "Dirty Dozen" made by COA volunteer Kathleen Gasienica.

Clean Ocean Action (COA) released the 2012 Beach Sweeps Report earlier this month, highlighting the Dirty Dozen, Roster of the Ridiculous, and the totals for over 90 items of marine debris collected by volunteers last year.

In 2012, 6,926 volunteers collected, tallied, and removed over 350,000 pieces of debris from NJ's shoreline during Clean Ocean Action's 27th Annual Beach Sweeps. The majority of the debris removed were plastics—items designed to be used once and thrown away. Plastic, including foam, represents 82.7% of the total waste found. Below are some highlights. For the complete report, visit [cleanoceanaction.org](http://cleanoceanaction.org).

It should be noted that the Fall Sweeps occurred just ten days after Superstorm Sandy and over 21 data sets were lost.

The majority of the debris removed was disposable plastics including the following **top 3** items:

- 49,362 cigarette filters -- up from fifth place in 2011 (33,633 pieces)
- 43,777 plastic pieces -- down from first place in 2011 (63,117 pieces)
- 38,349 caps and lids -- down second place in 2011(58,612 pieces)

Items contributing to the "Roster of the Ridiculous" include:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Earmuffs      | Fortune cookie |
| Ant trap      | Stuffed horse  |
| Stove burner  | Magic wand     |
| Shopping cart | Vampire teeth  |

Waves of thanks to the Beach Captains who help collect and compile this data! At time of print, Beach Sweepers were out collecting data for the 2013 Beach Sweeps Report!

## CITIZEN ACTION

Zach McCue, [Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org)

### COA joins Oceana, Princeton Students in Marking Third Anniversary of BP Oil Spill



On an "oiled" stuffed Penguin from the Princeton University Mock Oil Spill

On Friday, April 19th, Clean Ocean Action joined national ocean group Oceana, and a group of students at Princeton University to mark the third anniversary of the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Students from SURGE (Students United for a Responsible Global Environment) organized a "mock" oil spill by spilling "oil" on stuffed dolphins and birds. Citing last year's public hearing on seismic testing for oil and gas in the mid-Atlantic ocean, Clean Ocean Action made the argument against offshore drilling. Environmentalists, surfers, commercial and recreational fisherman, divers, and locals outnumbered industry 10-to-1 to oppose seismic exploration in front of a panel of Administration officials from the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM).

While a decision on whether or not to allow for seismic airguns off the Atlantic has been delayed until the fall by the administration, it is clear that BOEM is proactively supportive of the plan. Recently Congressman Pallone set a letter to BOEM expressing opposition to the plan due to the harm it would cause to marine life and fisheries. The response from BOEM Director Tommy Beaudreau indicated that they feel it is more important to search for oil and gas and the impacts can be "mitigated". However, it is impossible to mitigate for these impacts as marine life cannot be moved out of the way and the concussion of sound can travel hundreds of miles under water making the destructive harms unquantifiable. If you are interested in learning more about seismic surveys or what you can do to help, please contact Zach at [citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org).

#### Still Time to Register for Blue Vision Summit!

Interested in speaking to your members of Congress about current pressing ocean pollution issues? There is still time to register for Blue Vision Summit! Blue Vision Summit is a conference of grassroots ocean advocates across the country that come together to collaborate, network, and advocate for the ocean. On Wednesday, May 15th, COA will lead a contingent of New Yorkers and New Jerseyans to Capitol Hill as we discuss protecting the ocean from pollution and industrialization with our elected officials. **To register, visit [www.bluefront.org](http://www.bluefront.org)**, or call Zach at 732-872-0111 with any questions.

**BLUEVISIONSUMMIT4**



## SCIENCE AND POLICY

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Sean Dixon, Esq., [Policy@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Policy@cleanoceanaction.org)

### COA on Your Side: Testified at Water Infrastructure Hearing

The NJ Clean Water Council sponsored a hearing on improving the resiliency of our water infrastructure. DEP leadership provided overviews of water infrastructure damage from Superstorm Sandy, funding opportunities for rebuilding, and policy initiatives. There are still facilities and towns that are in the process of repairing sewer and water lines. Rebuilding for future resiliency is a priority for the state.

The storm impacts highlighted existing vulnerabilities in New Jersey's aging water infrastructure. A large long-term capital investment - about \$37 billion - is needed for wastewater, storm water, and non-point source pollution control over the next 20 years had already been identified prior to the storm. Superstorm Sandy added another \$2.6 billion in damages to this infrastructure.

COA testified, calling for a hazard risk analysis that considers latest science and improved mapping, and requires protective standards to be met. COA urged the state to issue a protective water supply plan, strengthen stormwater and coastal zone regulations and permits, restore land preservation funding, develop long-term funding mechanisms, and support green infrastructure.

### Sealife Still Suffering Three Years after BP Oil Disaster



A NOAA Oil Spill Response worker cares for an oiled Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

The BP oil disaster, where an explosion killed 11 people and resulted in millions of gallons of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico, continues to harm the region's marine life and habitats according to a recent National Federation Wildlife Report (available online at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) in the Media Center). Over 650 dolphins have been found dead since the disaster, representing only a small fraction of those likely affected or killed. In 2012, the numbers declined but were still 2.5 times the historic average. An unusual number have been infants, with strandings in January and February of 2013, 6 times the average. Since the disaster occurred during the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna breeding season, it may explain why the number of juveniles has been reduced by 20%. This may lead to potential long-term population impacts.

Already low turtle population numbers make them vulnerable to oil pollution and other stresses. More than 1,700 turtles were found stranded since the spill to Nov. 2012 (again much higher than normal); most were the endangered Kemp's Ridley. Shrimp (despite reports of deformities last year) and brown pelicans were rated as good - but were found to still face many threats from pollution and habitat loss.

The status of coastal wetlands was described as "poor" due to the 1,110 miles of shoreline that were oiled. The area is impossible to clean and has suffered a severe loss of subsidence. This is occurring at alarming rates in Louisiana in part due to oil-related canal building, and in part due to oil extraction in the region.

## SCIENCE AND POLICY CONT.

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., [Science@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Science@cleanoceanaction.org)  
Sean Dixon, Esq., [Policy@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Policy@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Conferences for a Clean Ocean

Last month, COA participated in several important conferences.

First, COA participated in a **Mid-Atlantic Ocean Policy Symposium**, held at Seton Hall Law School in Newark, NJ, hosted by NJ Sea Grant and Monmouth University. The conference, which brought together dozens of the area's ocean leaders from state, federal, academic, and public interest groups, was convened to spark conversation among the ocean advocates of the region. Panels covered topics ranging from fisheries and mapping systems to federal government roles and pollution. COA's coastal policy attorney Sean Dixon presented on the day's first panel, showcasing bottom-up management strategies for protecting our Mid-Atlantic clean ocean economies. Sean's presentation covered the Clean Ocean Zone ([cleanoceanzone.org](http://cleanoceanzone.org)) and legal mechanisms for protecting the ocean from pollution and industrialization to support clean coastal uses like fishing and tourism.

Second, COA organized and sponsored a conference called **"Recovery and Rebuilding After Superstorm Sandy: What We Know and Where We Go."** This first-of-its-kind meeting was a day-long event held at New Jersey's Law Center in New Brunswick, and was aimed at lawyers and policymakers from across the state. The conference drew over 80 practitioners and featured an amazing line-up of speakers. The day began with introductions to the State of the State by NJ DEP representatives, saw two sitting legislators (Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman Peter Barnes) present ideas for the future, incorporated local, state, and federal perspectives on rebuilding and recovery, and closed with a Q&A with Senator Bob Smith and Sea Bright, NJ Mayor Dina Long. Over 20 legal leaders from across the nation joined the conference to speak or moderate panels.

The conference was co-sponsored by COA, the NJ State Bar Association and the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources Law. A similar conference, coordinated by NYC law firm Sive, Paget & Reisel with some help from COA attorney Sean Dixon, took place last month at Hofstra University on Long Island.

Third, COA attorney Sean Dixon joined **Food and Water Watch** at their **"Foodopoly"** event, held at the Two River Theatre in Red Bank, NJ to discuss the world of natural gas, water pollution, and food. Sean spoke on a panel with food and natural gas advocates as well as Food and Water Watch's Executive Director Wenonah Hauter. The event, which brought over 300 people out for information on food and fracking, was a resounding success! A video of the entire presentation and panel discussion is available on the [FoodAndWaterWatch.org](http://FoodAndWaterWatch.org) website.

