



Clean Ocean Advocate

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January 2009 Highlights

- COA Celebrates 25 Years in 2009: Join the Celebration!
- U.S. Court Rules for NJ in Industrial Island Proposal
- Youth Action for a Clean Ocean: Student Ocean Advocates

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
COA Staff Plunges into Carpooling:
 Clean Ocean Action set-out to carpool to work and meetings with a 700-mile goal for 2008. With two weeks remaining, the total is **3,979 miles!** Staff not only drove together, but biked together to help reach this incredible green feat! In 2009, staff will challenge ourselves to increase carpooling efforts -- will you? It's cool to carpool!

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 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION! MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

➡ Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
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COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

January

January 1, Thursday
 - **6th Annual Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge**, to benefit COA, Special Olympics of NJ, and Campership of Monmouth County, Convention Hall, Asbury Park, NJ, 10am-12pm Check-in, 1pm Plunge. To register, go to www.sonsofireland.org.

January 24, Saturday
 - **Keansburg Father Time Annual Fishing & Environmental Expo**, Bolger Middle School, Keansburg, 10am-12pm. Call Carl at COA to volunteer at our action table or stop by at the event.

SAVE THE DATE

February 15, Sunday
 - **22nd Annual Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Supermarket**, Intermediate North School, Toms River, 9am-2pm. Call Carl at COA to volunteer at our action table.

February 28, Saturday
 - **COA's 25th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration!** Watch for an invitation in the mail shortly.

Our COAlition Featuring...25 Years of Action



Throughout the 25-year history of Clean Ocean Action (COA), our **Participating Organizations (PO)** have been at the heart and soul of the coalition to stop ocean pollution. Let's celebrate and reminisce the actions and success of this remarkable coalition. To get started:

- Why did your PO join COA?
- What was your favorite campaign?
- Where were you when Al Gore and Superman Christopher Reeve pledged to take action?
- Were you at or closed-out of the infamous Ft. Monmouth hearing?
- Who is your favorite anti-ocean dumping action hero?
- The Muck Monster?
- Did you attend the first Beach Sweeps?
- Do you remember declaring a dumpsite-free ocean?
- Did you participate in a paddle-out?
- Did you or do you still own a "Slick the Cat" COA t-shirt?
- Did you "March for the Shore"?

Be part of the celebration! Email, write/mail, or call-in your COA stories and memorabilia for the celebration.



It's hard to believe...but, welcome to 2009 as Clean Ocean Action (COA) celebrates our **25th Anniversary of Ocean Advocacy!** We invite all to join-in for a year of renewed action to create a new wave of ocean protection.

Although it can be rather foul, it's good to reflect on how things have changed over these years. Looking back to 1984, the Jersey Shore was not a beachy place. With eight offshore ocean dumpsites for sewage sludge, acid waste, industrial waste, creosote wood-burning, toxic muck, cellar dirt, toxic waste incineration, and concentrated sewage waste, the Jersey Shore was known as the "Ocean Dumping Capitol of the World." Onshore, water quality deteriorated due to billions of gallons of raw sewage and industrial wastes. Illegal dumping was rampant. By the late 1980s and 90s the ocean had enough and began spewing raw sewage, medical waste, and garbage onto beaches. A record 850 beach closures occurred in just one summer. Certain fish, such as striped bass and blue fish, were too polluted to eat and crabbing and clamming in certain regions were prohibited.

Today, the Jersey Shore is pretty beachy, and an economic engine that supports the entire state. The ocean is dumpsite free, cleaner, and healthier. Fishing and clamming have improved. Beach closures due to pollution are occasional, and major garbage wash-ups are few. Though it isn't perfect and challenges remain, it is a joy again to go to the beach.

How did this transformation happen? The answer is crystal clear—people power. COA -- a lean, green, ocean pollution fighting machine -- was formed as a coalition of organizations, citizens, and businesses on a mission to stop ocean pollution. Together we formed an invincible force to implement environmentally sound solutions to eliminate or reduce pollution sources. We, the people, attended countless meetings, rallies, press conferences, hearings, and events. We researched solutions, collected petitions, wrote letters, held beach cleanups, and educated and involved citizens of all ages. We marched, testified, and went to Washington, D.C., New York, and Trenton. Over time, the people led the leaders to end ocean dumping and industrial discharges and reduce many sources of pollution. It wasn't easy; these were some tough hombres. But sensible policies and the power of the people prevailed. You are this mighty, feisty band of citizens -- the ocean defenders. Congratulations on a generation of remarkable, meaningful, and world-improving action!

While the ocean faces some serious challenges, you have the power to stop the backward plunge of ocean industrialization and convince our elected officials to pass legislation making the waters off the Jersey Shore and New York's South Shore the nation's first Clean Ocean Zone—where only the green and clean are legal and marine life thrives.

Join in the celebration of the 25th! Tell us your COA story—good, bad, or ugly. Be Green to Save Big Blue! Ever onward, *Cindy Zipf, Executive Director*

A Snapshot of 2009 Events & Programs

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| January 1 - Polar Bear Plunge | May 7 & 8 - Spring Student Summit |
| February 28 - Anniversary Celebration | May 17 - Family Beach Ball |
| March 20 - Earth Share NJ Wine Tasting | June - August - Corporate Beach Sweeps |
| April - Aveda Earth Month | September 25 - Sunset at Sandy Hook |
| April 4 - Memorial Flounder Tournament | October 8 - Fall Student Summit |
| April 25 - Spring Beach Sweeps | October 24 - Fall Beach Sweeps |



CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

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U.S. Court Rules for NJ in Industrial Island Proposal

In December, the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. upheld the U.S. Maritime Administration's (MARAD) designation of NJ as an "adjacent coastal state" (ACS) in the review process for an industrial island proposed by the Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG). The Court agreed that there are risks to NJ, including interference with the port and prime fishing areas, and impacts to water quality from construction or spills. The company wants to build a 116-acre man-made island off NJ and NY to serve as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal. NJ will now have public hearings in the state and NJ Governor Corzine can veto the project (see related article).

Over 30 NY/NJ Groups Denounce NJ Governor's Support of LNG

At a press conference last month at Langosta Lounge in Asbury Park, over 30 New York and New Jersey organizations (see list below) sent a letter to Governor



Corzine denouncing his support for LNG ports which is included in his recently released Energy Master Plan (EMP). The plan states, "Any liquefied natural gas terminal or other fuel supply project that meets the DEP's strictest environmental requirements will be permitted for operation...[T]he State policy will be to allow the markets to determine the cost, reliability and quantity of these fuel supply projects." The groups requested a meeting with Corzine, but has not received a response to date.

American Littoral Society, Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, Clean Ocean Action, Communication Workers of America - Local 1034, Concerned Citizens of Montauk, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Environment New Jersey, Fishermen's Dock Cooperative, Pt. Pleasant, Fishermen's Conservation Association and Staten Island Chapter, The Green Party of Monmouth County, The Green Party of Ocean County, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Miami2Maine, Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater, Natural Resources Protective Association, NJ Council of Diving Clubs, NJ Environmental Federation, NJ Work Environment Council, NY Sportfishing Federation, NY Whale and Dolphin Action League, Paddleout.org, Pequannock River Coalition, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Sierra Club Long Island Group, Staten Island Tuna Club, Surfers' Environmental Alliance, Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore Chapter, Surfrider Foundation - South Jersey Chapter, WATERSPIRIT

State Blows Away Blue Ribbon Panel on Offshore Wind

At a December 11th meeting, the NJ Board of Public Utilities confirmed that NJ will no longer conduct a 350 megawatt (MW) offshore wind pilot project, as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel. The purpose of the pilot project was to "determine if it is appropriate to build additional projects," as well as to determine feasibility. Now the State has committed to three times the pilot, building 1,000 MW of offshore wind generation by 2012.

Money Blowing in the Wind

Also in December, COA submitted comments on the NJ Clean Energy Program Budget which would make \$12 million in state money available to fund offshore meteorological towers for offshore wind projects. COA questioned whether this was the best way to spend limited funds in seeking to establish offshore wind, and noted the lack of consideration given to other planning needs, such as ecological baseline studies or assessments of onshore infrastructure needs.

Oil and Gas Drilling & Impacts Close to Home?

For the first time in 25 years, drilling plans are underway in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Virginia. Any pollution resulting from such activity will affect New Jersey and New York waters.

In December, the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) held a workshop to identify research gaps and needs for assessing environmental impacts associated with the proposed offshore Virginia Lease Sale for oil and gas drilling. The MMS announced plans to use \$2 million in taxpayer money toward three studies: a Mid-Atlantic ocean circulation model, an inventory of marine archaeology, and an assessment of oil and gas infrastructure in the Atlantic region. Companies are reportedly discussing building an oil pipeline from Virginia to New Jersey to the existing infrastructure in NY/NJ Harbor.

For the proposed Mid-Atlantic Oil and Gas Lease Sale off Virginia, MMS is accepting public comments on a Call for Information and Interests and a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. *Comments are due January 13, 2009.*

Also in December, at a Virginia Beach town meeting that included presentations about energy issues and options for the region, including offshore oil and gas drilling, Virginia State Delegate Joe Bouchard (D-83), who is also a former Commanding Officer at the Norfolk Naval Station, said the federally proposed lease area for drilling off Virginia presents a high risk as it is located within the U.S. Department of Defense's VACAPES military training area. Bouchard showed a vivid picture taken in August of a burning rocket falling to the ocean within VACAPES. A NASA rocket launched from Virginia facilities veered off course and NASA officials had it destroyed. This example raises the question, "What if a drilling rig was in the path of the explosion and debris?" Bouchard proved that drilling in military exercise zones do not mix.

Wave Energy Proposed off NJ Coast

Grays Harbor Ocean Energy (GHOE) filed an application to study the feasibility of a wave energy project 12 to 25 miles off Atlantic County, NJ. The project would consist of 100 one-megawatt wave energy units that would generate 300 gigawatt-hours annually. The individual platforms can also support wind turbines, but GHOE is not applying for such permits at this time.

GHOE has already received a preliminary permit to study feasibility of a project off Washington and has filed similar applications in five other states. A 60-day comment period began December 5.

**POLLUTION PREVENTION**

Tavia Danch, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Youth Action for a Clean Ocean

The **Student Ocean Advocates** (SOA) kicked-off its third year in November. Students and environmental advisors from **Middletown South, Rumson Fair-Haven Regional, Henry Hudson, Wall, Long Branch, Red Bank Regional, Academy of Allied Health and Science, Neptune, Mater Dei, Monmouth Regional, and Biotechnology** high schools gathered to share their common interest of keeping our ocean clean and protected. Through the COA-sponsored program, SOA students learn about current environmental threats to our oceans and develop and experience key advocacy techniques and tools to make a difference.

SOA representatives will develop and implement a campaign to encourage members of each of their "home high schools" and communities to make environmentally conscious choices in their daily lives. This year, SOA members voted to focus on opposing the three LNG facilities proposed off the NJ/NY coast. Stay tuned for exciting campaigns from a proactive and productive SOA crew!

We thank Monmouth University and the Urban Coast Institute for hosting the SOA meetings this year.

CITIZEN ACTION

Carl Guastafarro, 732-872-0111, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

Volunteer Opportunities to Ring in the New Year!

It's a new year with many new volunteer opportunities for ocean advocates. This winter, COA seeks volunteers to urge citizens to learn about ocean pollution issues and to take action to protect the ocean at display tables at events. To sign-up for the following events, contact Carl:

January 1: *Sons of Ireland Polar Bear Plunge*, Convention Hall, Asbury Park, 8:30-10am setup and 2-3pm cleanup

January 24: *Keansburg Father Time - 4th Annual Fishing & Environmental Expo*, Keansburg, 10am-12pm

February 15: *22nd Annual Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Supermarket*, Toms River, 9am-2pm

Support e-activism efforts for the ocean!
Join the Clean Ocean Action group on
www.facebook.com

facebook

SEA SCENES: United Teletech Financial

United Teletech Financial (UTF) is a community credit union serving members at the Jersey Shore and across Monmouth and Ocean Counties for more than 40 years. Recently, the company adopted several "green" practices, including encouraging their membership to receive statements and newsletters electronically, using post-consumer recycled materials when possible, and distributing premiums like reusable shopping bags and recycled paper notebooks. UTF no longer uses paper applications and now opens all accounts online. Their employees understand every little bit helps.

Also, UTF's employees, families, and customers are hands-on, joining COA each year throughout Monmouth County for the Beach Sweeps (pictured to right). Through volunteerism, advertising, donations of gloves and tote bags, as well as a generous \$10,000 sponsorship, UTF helps COA to inspire others to prevent pollution.



"Many of our members and employees spend their summers at the Jersey Shore, so they understand and appreciate the benefits of clean beaches. Since we started our participation in Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps in 2006, it has been one of our most popular sponsorships. We're proud that our employees and membership support the efforts of COA, and this commitment has shown with our turnout of volunteers each season. These folks are happy to do their part in keeping our shoreline clean for themselves, their families, and for generations to come," said **Leo R. Ardine, UTF President/CEO**.

"United Teletech's leadership and commitment to improving the environment is inspiring. Their teamwork approach is a model for all of us," said **Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of COA**.

To learn how businesses can join the Beach Sweeps, call COA's Jennifer Smiga at 732-872-0111.

(Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)