



# CLEAN OCEAN ACTION'S Beach Sweeps & Waterway Cleanup Annual Report - 2004

## 2004 Sites

Asbury Park  
 Atlantic City  
 Atlantic Highlands  
 Avalon  
 Avon-By-The-Sea  
 Barnegat  
 Barnegat Light  
 Bay Head  
 Beach Haven  
 Belmar  
 Bradley Beach  
 Brick Township  
 Brigantine  
 Cape May  
 Cape May Point  
 Deal  
 Elberon  
 Hamilton Preserve  
 Harvey Cedars  
 Hazlet Township  
 Ideal Beach  
 Island Beach St. Park  
 Keansburg  
 Keyport  
 Lake Fred  
 Lakewood  
 Lavallette  
 Leonardo  
 Loch Arbour  
 Long Branch  
 Longport  
 Manasquan  
 Mantoloking  
 Margate  
 Middle Beach  
 Monmouth Beach  
 Normandy Beach  
 North Wildwood  
 Ocean City  
 Ocean Grove  
 Ortley Beach  
 Pine Beach  
 Point Pleasant  
 Point Pleasant Beach  
 Port Monmouth  
 Raritan Bay  
 Sandy Hook  
 Sea Bright  
 Sea Girt  
 Sea Isle City  
 Seaside Heights  
 Seaside Park  
 Somerville  
 South Seaside Park  
 Spring Lake  
 Stone Harbor  
 Strathmere  
 Surf City  
 Tuckerton  
 Union Beach  
 Ventnor  
 Villas  
 Vineland  
 Wildwood  
 Wildwood Crest

**C**lean Ocean Action (COA), a broad-based coalition of over 150 organizations working to improve and protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts, hosted its **19th Annual Beach Sweeps** in 2004. The NJ Beach Sweeps is one of the longest running cleanups of its kind in the United States. This event has grown from **75** people at one location in 1985, to over **6,600** people at **147** locations in **66 municipalities** in 2004. This year, the Beach Sweeps was a record-setting event, surpassing all other cleanups in volunteer participation, items and pounds collected, locations, and area covered. The combined 2004 spring and fall Sweeps resulted in nearly **19,000** volunteer hours for the protection of the marine environment. These dedicated volunteers collected and recorded over **338,000** items, removing nearly **92,000** pounds of debris from New Jersey's beaches.

Volunteers gathered on beaches from Raritan Bay through Sandy Hook Bay to Cape May Point, and at sites along Delaware Bay, to work together to rid our beaches and waterways of pollution. This year's Sweeps included ocean and back bay beaches, rivers, lakes, streams, and underwater cleanup sites. Also, kayakers cleaned rivers and creeks in south Jersey.

### Who Participates in the Beach Sweeps?

Over 310 organizations, including 20 business teams, 58 Girl and Boy Scout groups, and 128 schools participated in the 2004 cleanups (see page 2). A growing trend for the Sweeps is businesses that send teams of employees to help in the cleanup effort. Also, participation by school groups in 2004 showed an increase of more than 20 percent.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2004 Sweeps Data & Highlights
- New Jersey's Dirty Dozen
- Roster of the Ridiculous



Cheers from volunteers in Cape May, NJ.



Cleaning the beach in Keyport, NJ.

### About COA's Beach Sweeps

Clean Ocean Action conducts two beach cleanups each year in New Jersey. The first cleanup is held in the spring around the time of Earth Day and the second is held on "Make a Difference Day" in the fall. The Beach Sweeps is an event that not only benefits the environment, but benefits communities as well. People of all ages, from the tall and the small, lead or participate in the cleanups.

More importantly, Sweeps participants not only remove unsightly debris from beaches and waterways, but record what they collect. The debris from the beach cleanups is catalogued by volunteers using data cards. Each data card is reviewed, verified, entered in a computer data base, and analyzed by COA. Over ten years of Beach Sweeps data has been collected and compiled.

The data collected from the beach cleanups provides important information about the types of beach debris found on our shores and is used to identify and monitor pollution trends. The information helps our lawmakers write strong and enforceable laws and look for solutions to keep New Jersey's beaches clean and safe. The data ensures that a one-day event becomes a legacy for ocean protection in the future.

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This information is also made available to the public and to schools to educate people about nonpoint source pollution, the nation's number-one cause of marine pollution. Finally, the data from the fall cleanup is submitted to The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of its international database on marine debris and worldwide campaign against ocean pollution.

Clean Ocean Action thanks all the sponsors, contributors, municipalities, beach captains, and dedicated volunteers that make the Beach Sweeps successful.

Visit COA at [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)