



Waves of thanks to COA's 33rd Annual Spring Beach Sweep volunteers!

Tremendous Turnout at Beach Sweeps

On April 21 thousands of volunteers gathered from 9am – 12:30pm at 70 locations along New Jersey's shoreline, rivers and streams from Essex County to Cape May to remove harmful debris at Clean Ocean Action's (COA) 33rd Annual Spring Beach Sweeps. Data and photos continue to pour in. This year on Sandy Hook, roughly 873 volunteers collected 49,196 pieces of marine debris. The preliminary Top 5 results from Sandy Hook are:

- 1.) 9,412 plastic pieces
- 2.) 6,579 food/candy wrappers
- 3.) 5,989 caps/lids
- 4.) 3,749 foam pieces
- 5.) 3,693 straws/stirrers



6,288,576 pieces of debris collected so far over the past 32 years of COA's Beach Sweeps

Volunteers are encouraged to note any out-of-the-ordinary finds which COA labels as "The Roster of the Ridiculous." Some of the items catalogued included: Block of iron, inhaler, turkey baster, fire extinguisher, headphones, deceased Green Sea Turtle, deceased Harp Seal, deceased Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, full paint bucket, full set of keys, nickel, children's toy watering can, couch, message in a bottle, snake hiding in a tire, and whale toy. Check out COA's Facebook page to view the photo gallery.

Record Numbers Released in 2017 Beach Sweeps Report

COA released the 2017 Beach Sweeps Report at Sandy Hook on April 12 at a press conference. The report unveils the results of the data collected which also creates a legacy of information that is used to fight for better anti-litter programs and educate people about the harm caused by marine debris to the economy and wildlife. Over the past 32 years, a total of 6,288,576 items were collected by 123,242 volunteers.

The report highlights include twelve most commonly collected items ("The Dirty Dozen"), the most outrageous finds ("The Roster of the Ridiculous") and includes the breakdown of the total 373,686 pieces of marine debris collected by 7,416 energetic volunteers last year. The report also contains information about some surprising increases in balloons, straws, plastic pieces and caps and lids. A record 84.45% of all debris was plastic and the Dirty Dozen—items make up 74% of all plastic. This data can be used to help in campaigns to reduce the use of plastics. Visit COA's website to see the report.

NJ Law Leads the Nation to STOP Offshore Drilling

On the 8th Anniversary of the worst oil spill in history, the tragic Deep Water Horizon/BP Oil Spill Disaster, NJ Governor Murphy signed into law the STOP – Offshore Oil and Gas Act. It is the strongest state law in the country against the offshore oil and gas industry, and passed with near unanimous \ bi-partisan support from the NJ legislature. It also affirms the importance of the ocean to the state's economy and psyche—from High Point to Cape May Point, most agree—the Jersey Shore is a Clean Ocean Zone and a no-go zone for ocean industrialization.



Waves of thanks to Governor Murphy and the bill's original sponsors from NJ's 1st District - Senator Van Drew, and Assemblyman Land and Andrzejczak



COA was honored to receive one of the pens that the Governor used to sign the bill into law

The law was in response to the threat from the Trump Administration to open up 90% of US waters including to 3 miles of the coast. This law will prohibit offshore drilling and pipelines in state waters (within 3 miles), prohibits onshore support infrastructure, authorizes NJDEP to review any offshore drilling project in the Atlantic Ocean that may put NJ at risk, and finally, directs NJEP to establish these provisions as "enforceable policies" which provide greater protection against drilling in federal waters. In short, NJ has set the bar for the nation on how a state can defend the ocean from abuse by Big Oil. COA played a leading role in the drafting of the law, and COA urges other states in the Atlantic and beyond to pass identical legislation.

Activities by Little Silver Environmental Commission, Red Bank Environmental Commission, Rumson Dept. of Public Works, American Littoral Society, ANJEC, Flow Paddle Yoga, Forrestdale Environmental Club, Monmouth Boat Club, Navesink Maritime Heritage Association, NJDEP AmeriCorp, NJ/NJ Baykeeper Oceanport Water Watch, River Rats Sailing, Rumson Garden Club, We Are SURE, RFH Rowing, and more...

Rally for the Navesink Alliance Members

In Partnership with:

MARTA HEFLIN FOUNDATION

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

Love your Rivers Eco-Fest

Family Friendly! Eco-Friendly! Crafts! Passport Challenge! Take the Environmental Challenge!

Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest

Saturday, June 2, 2018, 9am-12:30pm

Rain date: June 3

For more info visit CleanOceanAction.org @RallyfortheNavesink

Take the Environmental Challenge! Family Friendly! Eco-Friendly! Crafts! Passport Challenge! Take the Environmental Challenge!

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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE May 2018

Mark Your Calendars!

- Run the Hook**
May 13, 10am, Sandy Hook, NJ
- Hands Across the Sand & Paddle Out**
May 19, 11am
B69 Street, Rockaway, NY
3rd Ave, Bradley Beach, NJ
S. Bartram Ave, Atlantic City, NJ
- Rally for the Navesink Meeting**
May 24, 6:30pm, Bingham Hall, Rumson, NJ
- Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest**
June 2, Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

March for the Ocean
June 9, Washington, D.C.



Join the American Littoral Society and Clean Ocean Action on a trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for the Ocean on June 9, 2018. Ride with us on our "Bus for Big Blue" and march alongside fellow ocean lovers from all over the world! Visit CleanOceanAction.org to secure your free spot!

Tributes

In Memory of:

- Carol Anne Ross
- Christopher Tanis
- Andrew Thompson

In Honor of:

- Declan Hall's 17th Birthday
- Caryn Berman & Brian Thompson's Wedding
- Theodore Josberger
- Margo Pellegrino's Birthday
- Benjamin Topolosky's Bar Mitzvah

Support COA through a donation to the Tribute program or shop AmazonSmile and choose COA!

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Tory Woods, Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org
 Spencer Munson, Program and Resource Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Make a Difference this Summer!



Corporate Beach Sweep volunteers counting and recording marine debris

Did you know 445 volunteers from 14 corporations helped to remove 33,161 pieces of pollution last summer? Make a difference with your company or colleagues through COA's fun, team-building volunteer impact event, the Corporate Beach Sweeps. Apply for the program today!



Application and available cleanup dates for the program held at Sandy Hook can be found at CleanOceanAction.org or contact Spencer at programs@CleanOceanAction.org.

COA supports shifting sands....

This large channel dredging of clean beach sand will not be used to cap offshore dumping areas; rather it will go instead to re-fill offshore sand storage called borrow areas, to supply restore beaches in the future. The shift will hopefully also stop destruction of natural sand areas, called shoals, which are import fish habitat.



Seeking Volunteers!

Clean Ocean Action is seeking volunteers for fundraising and community events! Make an even larger difference and join a committee! No experience is required and this is a great opportunity to help spread COA's mission and awareness while meeting new friends and planning fun events!

Delaware Sweeps Target Land-based Litter



Over 96% of debris removed from Red Bank Battlefield Park was plastic, which includes everything from plastic bottles to tiny pieces of foam.

Marine debris may seem the most visible at the Jersey Shore, but it is crucial to remember that marine debris often starts out as inland litter that is carried to our waterways through stormwater runoff.

COA's Delaware Sweeps initiative brings the Beach Sweeps model to locations in need along the Delaware River to address these land-based sources of litter. Since 2017, COA has worked with partners along the tidal portions of the Delaware River to collect, count, and categorize debris.

The latest Delaware Sweep was held on April 15th at Red Bank Battlefield Park

in Gloucester County, in partnership with local West Deptford resident and environmental educator Teresa Brown, as well as the Gloucester County Parks Department. In the first three hours, a small group of motivated volunteers collected 1,080 pieces of debris, over 96% of which was plastic and over 35% was foam pieces. To get involved in the Delaware Sweeps, follow COA on Facebook to find out about upcoming cleanup events or register for the Beach Sweeps at a location along the Delaware River. Palmyra Cove Nature Park in Burlington County has been a Beach Sweeps site for several Sweeps, and as the locations along the Delaware reach a baseline level of litter, they will be added to the ever-growing list of semi-annual Beach Sweeps locations.

SCIENCE

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 Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

The Loch-NESE is a Real Monster and an LNG Trojan Horse

The proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) is a Williams Transco Company pipeline which would bring natural gas from Pennsylvania across New Jersey under Raritan Bay to New York. It has three sections: Madison loop, Franklin Township compressor station, and Raritan Bay Loop. The alleged purpose is to feed 400 million BTUs of methane gas to New York. However, this pipeline could also lead to the building of an offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility – such as the seven proposed since 2009. Fortunately, they were all defeated, but this pipeline would be a gift to assist in the development of an offshore LNG terminal. An export facility would be DISASTROUS to millions of citizens living in the Marcellus Shale region as it would cause a “gas rush” resulting in a surge of hydro-fracking to exploit gas exports to Europe and beyond.



The proposed pipeline would bring natural gas from Pennsylvania across New Jersey under Raritan Bay to New York.

The land-based pipeline will go through residential neighborhoods and near schools, and the compressor station poses severe public health risks by emitting noxious pollutants, such as formaldehyde, benzene, methane and carbon. In Raritan Bay construction will re-suspend contaminated sediments polluting the waterway. Dredging and construction noise will disturb wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

Some good news is that the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) has denied Williams Transco a Water Quality Certification for the bay and ocean section. NYDEC found the application incomplete and materials submitted shared potentially “significant environmental impacts that raised serious concerns.”

However, more must be done. Please send a letter to NJ Department of Environmental Protection and urge them to use all legal tools to stop the pipeline.

The primary agency reviewing the plan is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. They have released the Draft Environmental Impact statement, and even that document admits there will be environmental harm. It is also severely flawed. Please submit public comments by May 14th and visit www.nynjbaykeeper.org for instructions and information.

Clean Ocean Action Receives EPA Region II Equipment Loan Grant for 2018

Clean Ocean Action has been selected by USEPA Region II for the 2018 IDEXX Equipment Loan Grant for Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring. Under this program, EPA Region II will loan COA all IDEXX equipment and accessories, and also provide training on how to use the equipment for pathogen and water quality monitoring.



IDEXX Water Quality Testing Equipment

Citizen science efforts are increasingly being recommended as viable strategies for pollution monitoring, if these sampling/monitoring methods meet the quality requirements of NJDEP. Easy-to-use, less-cumbersome, yet promising and effective methods such as the proposed IDEXX method(s) can be tremendously useful in citizen science screening/monitoring watersheds for water quality and pathogen pollution. COA will collaborate with NJDEP, NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Marine Academy of Science and Technology and Brookdale Community College. Stay tuned for updates.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

What a Watery Way to Welcome Spring!

The 2018 “Be the Sea Change” season is off to a busy start this spring with Bayview Elementary School in Belford where students celebrated both World Water Day and Earth Day by learning about how they can become ocean defenders. Liberty Science Center Conservation Week guests learned about the Spring Beach Sweeps through the Clean Ocean Action information table, and by listening to *Sea Change* story by Joel Harper in the museum's theater. Many thanks go to Bayview and Liberty Science Center for welcoming COA and the “Be the Sea Change” program. For information about how to bring the “Be the Sea Change” program to your local school, library or day camp, contact Katy Coyle at coastal@cleanoceanaction.org.

Liberty Science Center—Conservation Week



Bayview Elementary School



Calling All Businesses!

Want to learn more about reducing plastics and help make a difference for clean water? Contact Spencer at programs@CleanOceanAction.org.



“An emaciated sperm whale washed up dead on a beach in Spain recently. The once majestic ocean-cruising youngster looked like a burnt pancake. He died a tragic and painful death feeding on 64 pounds of plastic he thought was food. Countless others have died the same way or by entanglement of plastics or other man-made products. We humans are wholly responsible for their deaths, and it is on us to do something about it,” said Cindy Zipf.