



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

Earth Month April 2016



Victory over Big Oil

Congratulations! On March 15, 2016, the Obama Administration withdrew the Mid-Atlantic from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Lease Plan and will be spared from the threat of offshore drilling for another 5 years. This ends a 10-year battle and preserves the ecosystem and the shore economy, which is the "goose that lays the golden eggs".

It is a clear "David and Goliath" victory that affirms the power of the people. Clean Ocean Action (COA) commends the coalition, businesses, citizens and national network of groups who never gave up, and fought hard to protect the ocean from drilling.

While defeating the Drill Baby Drill is a remarkable victory, we must now permanently lock it in by supporting the removal of the Atlantic Ocean from drilling. Go to Regulation.gov and search BOEM-2016-0003. Find the "Comment Now" button on the right side and write a comment to support the decision for no drilling in the Atlantic, or any other ocean realm. Also, stay tuned because the battle to stop ocean blasting for oil exploration is still not over.

Importantly, we thank New Jersey's bi-partisan congressional delegation that almost unanimously and consistently fought against drilling offshore, and for the leadership: US Senators Menendez and Booker, and US Representatives Frank Pallone (D-6) and Frank LoBiondo (R-2).



ANCHOR WATCH Monthly Spotlight

A special thanks to our AVEDA partners: 212 Salon, Adolf Biecker (Strafford, Center City, Studio in University City), Arame Salon & Spa, Art Plus Science, Asanda Park Ave. & Soho, Aveda Institute New York, Aveda West Broadway, Carla's Hair Salon, Eclipse, Essentials, FourteenJay, Fringe, Jean Madeline (Plymouth Meeting, King of Prussia), Jean Madeline Institutes (Queen Village, Northeast, University City), JLK Salon, LB Beauty Parlor, Lindsay James, Liquid, MiaJon Salon, Pure Energy, Rizzieri (Salon & Spa, Institute), Salon Fabrojae, Salon Shannon Leigh, Scott J. (Upper West Side, Upper East Side, Morningside Heights, Brooklyn Heights), Spruce Salon, Swarthmore Hair Studio, Talkin Heads, Ted & Co., The Secret Garden, Thompson's Salon & Aveda



Experience Center's located at: Bridgewater Mall, Cherry Hill Mall, Columbus Circle, Garden State Plaza, Grand Central Station, Fifth Ave, Short Hills Mall, Roosevelt Field Mall and Wait Whitman Mall

*For story see inside

Deal Dumping Debacle

Clean Ocean Action (COA) has continued to monitor the dumping debacle, that occurred in Deal from February 17 to 19, 2016, to ensure that environmental and public health is protected and the laws are enforced.

On March 17, COA released two letters to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) that seek further action against Agate Construction Co., Inc. for illegally dumping muck and debris into the ocean off Deal, NJ.

The law office of Litwin & Provence sent a letter to the NJDEP on COA's behalf which urged the NJDEP to cite Agate Construction Co., Inc. for violating the Clean Water Act when they illegally dumped the material excavated from the Poplar Brook Stream Stabilization site into the Atlantic Ocean in February. Currently, the NJDEP had only cited Agate for land use law violations. The letter stated, "The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits any person from discharging any pollutant from a point source in navigable waters of the United States without a discharge of fill permit. In reviewing the CWA, this prohibition appears to have been clearly violated by Agate Construction."

Additionally, COA sent a letter asking NJDEP to conduct tests and quantify the amount of material that was dumped, and to make the information available to the public. See our blog and website for pictures, background and documents associated with this dirty debacle.



Photo courtesy of Bill Sneck



NJDEP's Flood Hazard Rules

On March 15, the NJDEP held an invitation-only stakeholder meeting regarding their Flood Hazard Rules. The NJDEP agreed to put these harmful rules on hold after backlash from the environmental community and the threat of a legislative veto to nullify them.

This meeting was meant to write changes for improvement to the rules. However, it seemed that the NJDEP had previously decided on what changes to make to these Rules. In addition, the meeting excluded certain environmental groups from attending.

In response to the NJDEP's actions, the environmental community banded together and walked out of the meeting. COA believes transparent, inclusive and meaningful public processes are essential to ensure that the rules and regulations protect the ecosystem and public health. This meeting, however, failed to meet those standards.

Therefore, COA stands united with its environmental community to reject this current and flawed structure of the DEP's approach. We will continue to seek meaningful input into these critical rules, and work with DEP, the legislature, and the public to accomplish our mission of protecting clean water for all.



Photo courtesy of NewsWorks

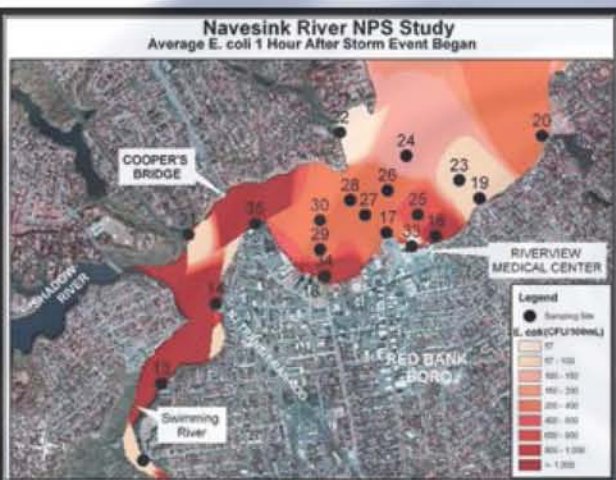
Trouble Looms for Navesink River

COA is conducting an extensive investigation into the serious water quality problems in the Navesink River. The water quality improvements made in the Navesink during the 70's, 80's and early 90's have plateaued, and are now deteriorating. This past January, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) downgraded over 500 acres of the river to "prohibited to shellfishing" due to bacteria (fecal) contamination. This is an expansion of the previously prohibited area and is of great concern. In addition, the US Environmental Protection Agency lists the Navesink as impaired (exceeding the amount of a given pollutant) for chemicals such as PCBs and DDT, and low amounts of Dissolved Oxygen due to excess nutrient loading, as well as high levels of pathogen indicator bacteria.

Therefore, according to NJDEP and USEPA, the Navesink river is unsafe for swimming in or paddling on after a rain event, and clambers should check new maps (visit: www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/) for safe areas. There is no question that the Navesink River is in trouble and the water quality is deteriorating. Clean water is essential for the life of the river, the community and the economy.

COA is in the process of developing an action plan to identify specific local, state and federal steps needed to address water quality issues, and will build a coalition of diverse citizens including fishermen, boaters, water

sports, business, and community leaders to halt and reverse the decline of the Navesink. As an aside, a separate proposal to create a National Marine Sanctuary in the region is circulating. As COA's sole focus is on improving water quality, we are not involved in this proposal. Any consideration would require a thorough evaluation and approval by COA's Board of Trustees.





VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, *Volunteers & Education*
citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Spring into Festival Season

Spring festivals begin sprouting like wildflowers in April and May as Clean Ocean Action hosts informational tables throughout the local community. COA is seeking volunteers who love to protect our ocean, wildlife and beaches and want to share their passion with festival-goers. In April, COA will celebrate Earth Month by attending these festivals and fairs:

Point Pleasant Earth Day: April 23, 12-4:00 pm

Rumson Fair Haven Earth Day: April 23, 1-5:00pm

Atlantic County Utilities Festival: April 24, 10 am-4:00 pm

Stay tuned for information about training sessions for new and veteran representatives which will be offered, however, no prior experience is required to staff a table.

Passion about marine and ocean issues is recommended! Contact Amanda Wheeler at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org for more information and registration.



URGENTLY NEEDED: Gently-used 15" x 24" carry-on rolling luggage for material transportation during festival season



SPECIAL EVENTS

Tory Woods, *Director of Development*
development@CleanOceanAction.org

April is Earth Month ~ Support Clean Water!

Clean water is essential to life and often taken for granted.

You can make a difference! During the month of April, Clean Ocean Action is partnering with Aveda salons, spas, and retail stores throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to raise funds for our programs to improve water quality. The Aveda Corporation is a global leader in sustainable and environmentally friendly beauty and



haircare products whose mission is to connect beauty, environment, and well-being.

This year marks the 10th Annual Aveda Earth Month supporting clean water, which has raised over \$38 million for local and global non-profit organizations and clean water

initiatives. With the support from the Aveda network, COA can continue to protect the regions coastal waters, improve degrading water quality in local watersheds, and ensure that the beaches and ocean are safe for all. In ten years, the Aveda campaign has raised over \$1 million for COA.

You can support this wonderful campaign initiative and clean water! Throughout Earth Month, partners will be hosting a variety of fun events, cut-a-thons, and amazing raffles. For the complete list of participating Aveda locations and ways to support COA, visit our website or contact Tory Woods at 732-872-0111.

Middle School Student Summit Registration Details

To apply please visit www.cleoceanaction.org under the *Education Programs* tab.

Reminder: There are separate applications for both days.

Please use the website to find the appropriate form.

If you have any questions please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleoceanaction.org.





MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Catie Tobin, Marine Science Program Coordinator
education@CleanOceanAction.org

Helping Beaches: Corporate Team-building Opportunity

With winter in hindsight, spring in our immediate view and summer on the horizon, we draw closer to Clean Ocean Action's Corporate Beach Sweep Program.

During the months of May-October, COA offers customized beach cleanups combined with educational programming and presentations in the beautiful and unique setting of Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook.

In 2015, COA welcomed 495 volunteers from AIG, Bloomberg, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Citrix, Edrington, iCims, Johnson & Johnson, KPMG, Royal Bank of Canada, TerraCycle, UBS, Verizon Wireless and West-Ward Pharmaceuticals and collected a total of 17,679 pieces of debris.

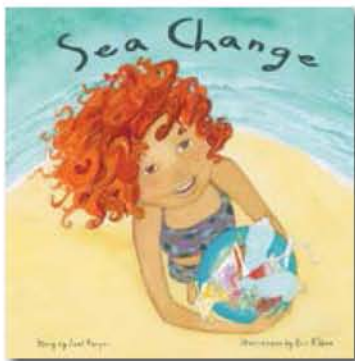
Join us this summer for a collaborative, volunteer opportunity which fosters

growth and teamwork while giving back to the environment. For more information, visit: www.cleanoceanaction.org/BeachSweeps/CorporateBeachSweeps.



One Man's Change to "Sea" in the World!

Clean Ocean Action (COA) supporter, Tom Stein, is on a mission. Concerned about plastic pollution in the ocean, Tom has set out to educate children in hopes of creating little ocean advocates. His vision is inspired by reading a book to his two-year-old daughter, **Sea Change**, by famous children's author, musician and ocean activist Joel Harper, based in California. Tom's goal is to, "Teach our future leaders



about how they can protect their ocean by keeping harmful plastics out." He hopes that, "This youthful perspective will awaken many of us who have come to accept that plastic trash in the street and on the beach is normal." After reading **Sea Change** to his young daughter, she now points to litter and says, "Yucky, that makes the crabbies sick!"

Tom is raising money, which his employer will match, to have COA facilitate readings of the books in schools under a pilot program. To learn more and support this educational opportunity, visit his interactive website:

www.crowdfund.com/betheseachange

Spring Student Summit!

Attention middle school teachers! This May 18th and 19th your students can help COA bring science to the beach! COA's Student Summit aims to expand learning beyond the classroom and is designed to provide students from central and northern NJ the opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education at the Jersey shore. Students learn about NJ's marine animals and ecosystem while observing and identifying animals in the local bay. Workshops include: marine water quality monitoring, birding, barrier beach profiling and understanding marine debris.

- **Wednesday, May, 18th** – 4th Grade Only. Schools may apply for transportation reimbursement. This is made possible through a grant from the National Park Foundation's Every Kid in the Park Transportation Grant in conjunction with NOAA. Application deadline is April 18.
- **Thursday, May 19th** – Students in Grades 5 – 8. Application deadline is April 29.

See more to left

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE NOW IN COLOR!

Sign up for Beach Sweeps!



Like our new look?
Have suggestions?
Send us your
comments:

communications@CleanOceanAction.org

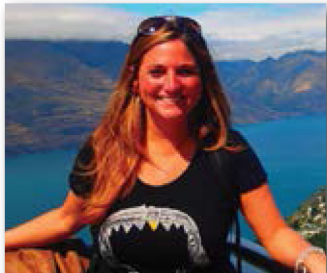
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Welcome, Lauren Brajer!

COA welcomes Lauren Brajer, our Communications and Program Coordinator. She's a Jersey Shore native who is passionate about the ocean; she has volunteered for COA, as well as other coastal groups. But it was Superstorm Sandy that made her aware of climate change and inspired her to become involved in environmental sustainability.

Lauren brings many talents and skills, as well as a Master's of Arts in Corporate and Public Communication, and a Certificate in Public Relations from Monmouth University. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Coastal Carolina University. Before joining COA, Lauren worked at 180 Turning Lives Around starting as an Intern, and quickly advancing to Development Associate.

Lauren's talents, professionalism, enthusiasm, and great sense of humor are already making a difference at COA. The color and new design of the newsletter for one, and her first day on the job was the day President Obama announced he would abandon plans to drill in the Atlantic Ocean. Lauren swung into press-mode without a hitch. She will focus on communications, branding, publications, media, and an improved website. Welcome to the crew, Lauren! Full steam ahead!



TRIBUTES



Gifts made in honor or in celebration of family or friends.

In Honor of:

Cindy Zipf

*Christina Mennella's
Birthday*

In Memory of:

Samuel Karinja

William Lavin

Nils Nielsen

Save the Date! Save the Ocean!



BEACH SWEEPS

Saturday, April 30

9am-12:30pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Choose from over 70 beach cleanups
along the Jersey Shore**

Pre-Register at

www.CleanOceanAction.org



@cleanoceanaction



COMCAST  NBCUNIVERSAL




Statewide Sponsors

April– Give Back to the Ocean this Earth Month!

Join us for one of the many exciting events or volunteer opportunities this April!

Earth Day Festivals and activities are happening across the Jersey Shore, check out your town or counties events to participate and make a difference.

Volunteer opportunities are listed in green. Aveda Earth Month events throughout NJ, NY, & PA are listed in blue.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Walk for Water, Clove Lake Park, Staten Island, NY	4	5	6	7	8 FourteenJay Meet & Greet	9
10 Catwalk- for- Water Trashion Show at Taj, NYC	11	12	13	14	15	16 Raritan Riverweek 4/16-4/30
17	18	19 Asanda Men's Cut -a-Thon, Park Ave Mala's for a Mission, Langosta Lounge Beach Captain Meeting- Nature Center, Cape May	20 Rizzieri Walk For Water & 20% to COA at Iron Hill Brewing, Voorhees, NJ Beach Captain Meeting- Sandy Hook	21 Beach Captain Meeting- Jenkinson's Aquarium	22 Happy Earth Day! Earth Day Happy Hour & Party, Asbury Festhalle & Biergarten	23 Kid's Paint for Clean Water, Secret Garden Spa Point Pleasant Earth Day Celebration, HCIA Earth Day Fair, RFH Earth DayFair
24 ACUA Day	25	26	27 Kid's Paint for Clean Water, Secret Garden Spa	28 Asanda Walk-for- Water, Battery City Park, NY	29	30  Statewide Beach Cleanup
May 1 Catwalk-for- Water, Essentials	2	3	4	5	6	7 Bridgewater Township Ecoblast

For a complete listing of COA's events and volunteer opportunities please visit:
www.CleanOceanAction.org
 and follow us on social media
 @CleanOceanAction or @CleanOcean



COA is excited to partner with Peak Productions for the first annual **Run The Hook**, which is a brand new race coming to the Jersey Shore at one of its most historic locations. With breathtaking views of both Atlantic Highlands and New York City, Run The Hook aims to offer athletes a unique environment to run in while supporting COA's local work to improve water quality. The inaugural event will include 5K and 10K races for athletes of all abilities. The race provides the perfect opportunity for runners to kick off the summer at the beach while running through the natural beauty of one of American's finest National Parks.
Join us May 15th at 11am! For more details and to register visit RunTheHookNJ.com!