



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

July 2016

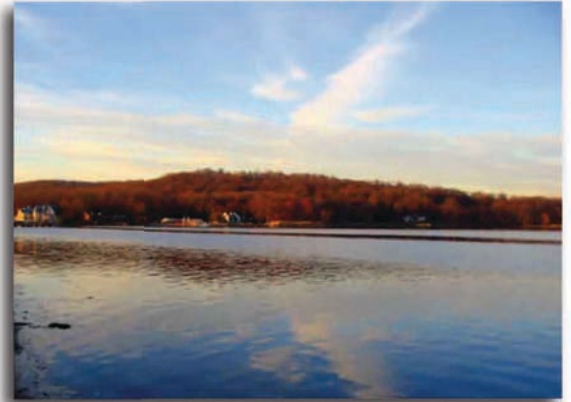
Photo above courtesy of Suzanne Spitaletta @suzanne_ap

State of the Navesink Report

On June 8, Clean Ocean Action met with Rutgers School of Engineering for a Navesink River site visit and initial sampling work by boat and land. Rutgers pulled water and sediment samplings for DNA and bacterial analysis. COA pulled additional water samples for an evaluation by Environmental Canine Services, LLC., an environmental consulting company that utilizes scent-trained canines to detect and track human waste in lakes, rivers, stormwater systems, streams and oceans.

Later that day, COA returned to the collection site after a significant rain event and pulled three additional samples that were analyzed by Rutgers. The results will be shared in July.

On June 28, COA held a public meeting at Bingham Hall in Rumson, NJ to discuss the release of COA's "Pathogen Pollution in the Navesink River Report", the pathogen pollution issues in the Navesink, source tracking efforts and how concerned citizens can help. The agenda included representatives from the NJDEP, Canine Environmental Services, Rutgers University and the "Rally for the Navesink" groups.



Pull the Pipeline Plug



Recently, Clean Ocean Action and our local environmental colleagues were alerted about a plan to install a new "loop" of natural gas pipeline parallel to the existing Lower Bay Lateral Line that was installed in the late 1960's.

The new pipeline would extend from Middlesex County, NJ, across the bay, to the Rockaways on Long Island, NY. Project proponents argue that this pipeline project is necessary to meet the increasing demand by delivering fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale through a system of pipelines to the New York City area.

NY/NJ Baykeeper is leading a campaign opposed to the pipeline due to the construction impacts and hazards this project would present to communities, commercial shipping, clam beds, fisheries, marine mammals, recreational boating and much more. The preliminary designs demonstrate that this project

would carve a nearly 22-mile long trench, 50-feet deep and 150-feet wide across the bay.

COA has advocated for transparency and public input and asked for a public meeting in our coastal area as soon as possible. Continue to monitor our social media and website to learn more.

ANCHOR WATCH Monthly Spotlight

Every year MAST, a co-ed four-year high school provides exceptional students volunteers to assist with COA events. Without their time, talent and dedication to COA's mission, Student Summit and the spring and Fall Beach Sweeps would not be a smooth success. COA congratulates

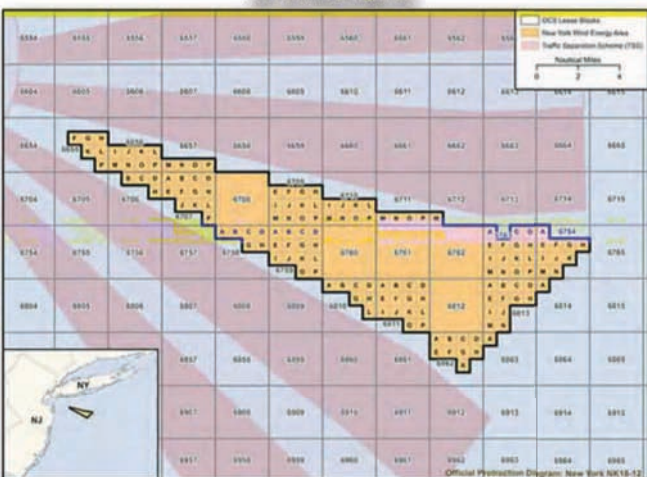


the students on their recent graduation and wishes them all the best of luck in their future endeavors!



A Long, Bighting Process

New York Wind Energy Area



On June 6, 2016, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a proposed notice for the sale of a commercial wind energy lease in what is called the “NY Wind Energy Area”. This area is roughly 127-square miles located off the coast of New Jersey and Long Island. The proposal is only the beginning of a long process.

The environmental review and lease sale is limited to the issuance of a lease area, surveys and site characterization and approval of meteorological and oceanography buoys within the lease area. At this time, no wind turbines are permitted and the entire project might be halted during this process. However, what this announcement signifies is the first step in siting this wind farm in the NY Bight. COA is not opposed to offshore wind energy as long as it is properly sited, developed and constructed. COA will continue to review the material and engage in the process as advocates for the ocean.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tory Woods, Director of Development
events@CleanOceanAction.org

Shore Paddle Postponed due to Clinging Jellies



Currently, the invasive clinging jellyfish (*Gonionemus vertens*) are appearing in abundance in several of NJ’s estuaries and bays. The sting of this jellyfish is severe to people and can cause serious pain and injury. Unfortunately, the most abundant population in NJ has been documented in the Shrewsbury River, where there have been a few

recent cases of individuals being stung and harmed by the jellyfish.

To ensure the safety of all paddlers and event-goers, **Clean Ocean Action and the Shore Paddle Committee have decided to postpone the Shore Paddle until spring of 2017.** The exact date will be determined in the coming weeks.

COA is currently working with scientists and the DEP to monitor these invasive jellyfish. In the meantime, for more information on Clinging Jellyfish, please review the DEP Fact Sheet. In addition, the DEP has approved a month-long study in partnership with Montclair State University, to better understand the nature, jurisdiction and circulation of this invasive species and its impact on our waterways.

The clinging jellyfish is very distinctive. Should you see one in your local waterway, please report it to the DEP at 877-WARN-NJDEP. Take a photo, from a distance.



VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator
citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Beach to Table: 2016 COAST Campaign Highlights Local Activism

As Clean Ocean Action splashes into another summer, C.O.A.S.T. (Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips) tables and volunteers will make appearances at beach clubs and on beaches along the Jersey Shore. Since 1987, COA has set up COAST tables to educate beachgoers about issues affecting the ocean.

This year's campaign focuses on water quality issues that are pertinent to local areas and aims to educate table visitors on opportunities to preserve and protect the ocean. For example, in areas surrounding the Navesink River Watershed, COAST tables will spread awareness about the river's downgraded water quality. Additionally, COAST will promote the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) legislation, urging table visitors to sign a petition in support of the COZ. Tables will also include surveys meant to gauge the importance of water quality and local environmental issues to voters. Additionally, community members will have an option to kick their plastic habit by signing the "Plastic Pledge" and receive Tip Tuesday emails (weekly emails that highlight innovative ways to reduce plastic use).

This year's COAST campaign highlights the many ways for individuals to help local waterways and the ocean. Whether through a signature on a petition, a pledge to be more conscious of plastic use, or an engaging conversation with government officials on environmental issues, every action makes a difference in the ongoing campaign to protect and preserve the precious waterways we have the privilege of enjoying. Please consider volunteering at a COAST table! E-mail coast@cleanoceanaction.org or call Cailyn at (732)-872-0111 for more information. Enjoy the beaches this summer and remember that YOU are the solution to ocean pollution!

COA Goes Back to School

This spring COA was inspired by the ocean-friendly message in Joel Harper's innovative children's book, *Sea Change*. The story has no written words, only creative imagery. Therefore, children become story-tellers as they are presented with new images at the turn of every page.

COA partnered with Tom Stein and thanks to the generosity of his company, Edrington, created an educational pilot program for schools in Long Branch and Asbury Park. Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator for COA, tailored a presentation for over 600 students enrolled in grades K-3.

As a retired teacher, Ms. Wheeler donned her creative education cap to illustrate to the students the many ways to make a difference at the Jersey Shore and around the world. The 3rd graders at Anastasia School in Long Branch became *Sea Change* ambassadors as they shared what they learned with their entire school. Students created posters to remind their peers how dangerous litter is to the quality of life on the beach and in our oceans. After the presentations, COA received hand-illustrated "Thank You" letters from each 3rd grader confirming that the message of *Sea Change* resonated with each child in a profound way.

COA sends out cool, clean waves of thanks to the following for making this pilot program a huge success:

Joel Harper

Tom Stein

Catrambone School, Long Branch

Barack Obama Elementary School, Asbury Park

Anastasia School, Long Branch

Gregory School, Long Branch

MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Catie Tobin, Marine Science Program
education@CleanOceanAction.org



#TrashFreeWaters: COA Celebrates First Microplastics Awareness Week

To celebrate World Ocean's Day on June 8th, Clean Ocean Action participated with global organizations for the inaugural Microplastics Awareness Week. In partnership with the Microplastics Working Group of USEPA Region 2's Trash Free Waters (TFW) Program, COA supporters were educated on the topic of microplastics

through social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In addition to highlighting microplastics as a whole, the awareness week was an opportunity to share current research projects in the region. For example, COA's research reached the public for the first time through social outlets.

For Background: In January 2014, COA put together a committee of international and national scientists to establish a model for marine microplastics assessments. In collaboration with this research team, specifically the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), COA launched the first statewide microplastics research study in New Jersey. Multiple samples were collected at 32 locations from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Analysis of the water and sand samples is underway and expected to be completed this year.

EPA Region 2's Trash Free Waters was established in 2014 as a means to identify a focused set of actions that support trash prevention and reduction initiatives by many public and private participants. These organizations, agencies, businesses and students decided to focus TFW initiatives to combat the plastic plague. The group is tackling the issue in the following five categories: boxes, microplastics, cigarette butts, bottles, and bags. Catie Tobin, COA's Marine Science Program Manager is the lead person for the microplastics working group which is highlighting research being done in EPA Region 2 with a goal of data standardization.

Overall, the first Microplastics Awareness Week was a success and groundbreaking means to excite citizens through social sharing and media networking.

COA Awards Blue Stars for Green Towns

COA is proud to announce that we are awarding the following towns for achieving the Municipal Blue Star Certification: Atlantic Highlands, Brick Township, Howell Township and Margate City.

COA's Municipal Blue Star Program was established in 2014 to encourage towns in coastal regions and beyond to prioritize water quality protection measures, while achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification. The Sustainable Jersey program is an action and point-based certification for municipalities in New Jersey that want to "go green", reduce costs, and take steps to improve their quality of life over the long term. These two programs encourage communities to promote healthy waters, resilient communities and environmentally sound practices.

The 2016 recipients join Long Beach Township, Wall Township and Galloway Township as Blue Star certified towns in New Jersey.

Throughout the summer, COA will award each town with the certification. Stay tuned for more details about the towns' successful efforts to reduce water pollution.



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Most Memorable Mentor!

At the Marine Academy of Science and Technology's (MAST) commencement on June 21, 2016 on Pershing Field in Sandy Hook, NJ, Catie Tobin, COA's Marine Science Program Manager was awarded Mentor of the Year for her work with students throughout the school year.

It was said of Catie, "She is an inspiration to all of us here at MAST...working alongside Catie has inspired us to help the environment and the community just as she has done!" COA Congratulates Catie! ~ Ever Onward!



Catie Tobin, pictured above with Nicolette Runko and Kaylie Haberstroh. Not pictured here: Robert McLaughlin

TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Christopher Harris

Samuel Karinja

William Lavin

Carol Ann Ross

In Honor of:

Birthdays of
Laura & Lisa Bagwell

Birthday of Linda Bowden

Birthday of Craig Wigginton

World Ocean's Day

From the Estate of: Melva C. Hackney

Congratulations from:

Students of The School in Rose Valley

The Estee Lauder Companies Travel Retail Worldwide/
Aveda Earth Month