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- Groups grade Gov. Christie on 10 Point Barnegat Bay Plan
- 2013 Beach Sweeps Annual Report findings revealed
- Public comment deadline May 16, NMFS authorization

May 2014 Highlights

- TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Sign the petition against seismic testing off Barnegat Bay this June.
 2. Send feedback to the COA education team about your Beach Sweeps experience.
 3. Donate to Clean Ocean Action in honor or in memory of an ocean lover you know and love.

LABEL

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact outreach@cleanoceanaction.org to participate with COA at any of these events!

5/17-18/14 Jersey Shore Festival, Seaside Heights 12:00pm-7:00pm

5/17/14 Ocean Fun Days, Island Beach State Park 11:00am - 3:00pm, rain or shine

5/18/14 Ocean Fun Days, Sandy Hook 11:00am-3:00pm, rain or shine

6/1/14 Barnegat Bay Festival, Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights 10:00am - 4:00pm

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of

COA's Beach Sweeps
Cindy Zipf

In Memory Of

Michael C. Louie
Samuel Karinja

Groups Grade Christie on 10 Point Barnegat Bay Plan



Photo courtesy of Nitrogen Pollution Action Project

On April 25, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and New Jersey Clean Communities Council kicked off the Barnegat Bay Blitz at Cattus Island County Park. NJDEP Commissioner, Bob Martin, spoke to the crowd about NJDEP educational programs and the state's watershed-wide cleanup event, as well as briefly highlighting progress on Governor Christie's 10 Point Plan to Address the Ecological Decline of Barnegat Bay.

Clean Ocean Action joined forces with Save Barnegat Bay, the American Littoral Society, and The Pinelands Preservation Alliance in issuing a Scorecard for the 10 Point Plan. The four groups acknowledge the Plan as an important component of the overall strategy to improve the health of Barnegat Bay, but insist there is no time to lose in implementing actions that will reduce bay pollution inputs, especially nutrients.

In 2010, the state implemented a descriptive standard to address nutrient pollution in waterways, but the standard is not yet being used to make the regulatory decisions that require action to be taken. The environmental groups have encouraged NJDEP to declare the Bay impaired, or "unhealthy", based on the aforementioned standard, existing science and data as well as professional best judgment, similar to what has been done in other states. This action would lead to the implementation of a number based, mandatory pollution reduction plan.

Overall, the Governor received two thumbs up for education programs and the nation's toughest fertilizer law; four fingers crossed for promising starts; and four thumbs down, for programs that have stalled or not met their intended targets. For details on the scorecard and an online petition to declare the bay impaired, visit the Littoral Society online at: <http://www.littoralsociety.org/>.

2013 Beach Sweeps Annual Report and Data Released



COA staff along with Marine Academy of Science and Technology senior, Tracy Vollbrecht, and Rumson Country Day School eighth grader, Cash Woldseth, at the press conference on Sandy Hook. Vollbrecht and Woldseth were Beach Captains for the 2014 Spring Beach Sweeps at Sandy Hook and Sea Bright, respectively.

Clean Ocean Action released the 2013 Beach Sweeps Annual Report on April 17, highlighting the Dirty Dozen, Roster of the Ridiculous and totals for over 95 types of marine debris collected by volunteers last year. Beach Sweeps has become New Jersey's largest recurring environmental event with thousands of citizens combing nearly the entire coastline and bay beaches.

In 2013, 6,658 volunteers collected, tallied, and removed over 325,000 pieces of debris from New Jersey's shoreline during COA's 28th Annual Beach Sweeps. The majority of the debris removed was disposable plastics, which represent 75.8% of the total waste found.

The impact from Superstorm Sandy was evident in the data - over 13,700 pieces of lumber were collected; twice over that collected in 2012 and the highest number on record.

The top three items in the Dirty Dozen remained the same, just trading places from 2012:

1. 39,484 plastic pieces -- placed second in 2012
2. 32,642 caps and lids -- placed third in 2012
3. 32,303 cigarette filters -- placed first in 2012

Some of the items comprising the "Roster of the Ridiculous" include:
Auto transmission Barbeque grill top
Propane heater Cash register drawer
Pool pump Dentures
Rubber alligator Toilet seat

Thanks to the Beach Captains and volunteers who tally this data and help make it all happen!

The full 2013 Beach Sweeps Annual Report can be viewed under the Beach Sweeps tab on our website at cleanoceanaction.org.

EDUCATION

Catie Tobin, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Spring 2014 Beach Sweeps

At press time, the 29th biannual Beach Sweeps was kicking off at over 65 sites from Essex County to Cape May County. Over 4,500 volunteers pre-registered from all over New Jersey as well as New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut. Stay tuned for a summary of the day's events and most interesting findings in the June issue of Clean Ocean Advocate!

Beach Captains - The Heart and Soul of Beach Sweeps

On April 2, COA kicked off a series of Beach Captain meetings at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant to prepare for the 2014 Spring Beach Sweeps. Well-seasoned captains offered advice to newer folks about recruiting volunteers to give their time and day-of advice for running the event. Folks told stories about their most unusual items found, like a complete pirate costume, and how they've handled them. Former Beach Captain and now COA staff member, Cara Muscio, shared the story of finding a seal stranded under a condo in Ortley Beach, and how to handle a live animal situation.

A few dedicated folks comprised the meeting at Margate Pavilion the following week, where time was well spent talking about how to engage more folks in Atlantic County. The following week at the Cape May Nature Center, COA staff and volunteers talked about how and why folks love sweeping the beach. A brainstorm session was held to discuss potential locations for Beach Captain's meetings in the future and ways to tie in the meetings with other fun activities.

The meetings also highlighted our Crowdrise campaign to raise funds through the Sweeps and introduced the microplastics project COA will be undertaking! If you would like to be a Beach Captain in the future, or have ideas for ways to make the meetings even better, please let us know!

COA CREW UPDATE

Jennifer Cubias
Outreach and Communications
Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org



COA welcomes Jennifer Cubias, who is spearheading outreach and communications and joined the staff in late March. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Santa Clara University and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from American Public University. She possesses over sixteen years experience in product launch events and public relations for film companies, non-profit organizations, and high-tech companies in both Manhattan and Silicon Valley.

At COA, Jennifer works to extend the organization's volunteer and in-kind support network from Monmouth to Bergen County through championing the organization and its accomplishments. She believes everyone in New Jersey and New York should know how Clean Ocean Action has worked to make the Shore region a location for marine life and people to enjoy for the past 30 years.

A recent transplant to New Jersey from Northern California, Jennifer feels back at home on her native East Coast and is excited to merge her love for both strategic business and environmental advocacy in her new role at COA.

SCIENCE AND ADVOCACY

Cassandra Ornell, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

June Barnegat Bay Seismic Testing Update

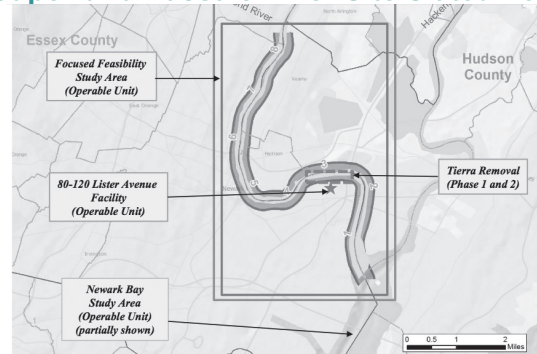
On March 25, COA submitted a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of 27 groups to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the NMFS marine mammal harassment authorization in connection with the June seismic study being conducted by four research groups. On April 4 and April 11, Congressman Pallone and Senator Booker, respectively, submitted a letter to NMFS with similar requests.

NMFS announced on April 9 it would extend the public comment period by 30 days, with a new deadline of May 16. Because this announcement only met a portion of COA's and Mr. Pallone's requests for a 60-day extension and public hearing, Mr. Pallone hosted a press conference on the issue at the Belford Seafood Co-Op on April 16. Also speaking at the press conference were Clean Ocean Action's Executive Director Cindy Zipf and Roy Diehl, President of the Belford Seafood Co-Op.

COA continues to review information on the potential for impacts to marine life and fisheries in the region and will be submitting detailed comments to NMFS on the shortcomings of its authorization for marine mammal harm.

Visit cleanoceanaction.org to read more about the issue and sign our petition against seismic testing off New Jersey today!

Superfund Passaic River Site Slated For Cleanup



Diamond Alkali Superfund Site Project Areas U.S. EPA - Region 2 April 2014

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finally targeting the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River for broad-scale federal cleanup efforts, after wait listing the River for much needed remediation for over 30 years. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Diamond Alkali plant in Newark manufactured Agent Orange and other herbicides, allegedly dumping toxic materials into the Passaic River for several decades following. In the early 1980s, investigations of soil and sediments near the plant and in the River revealed levels of dioxins and other contaminants at levels significantly above environmental and public health standards. As a result in 1984, the federal government listed 17 miles of the Lower Passaic River on the National Priorities List, the roster of hazardous waste sites eligible to receive public funds for long term cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

Phase 1 of the cleanup began 28 years later in March 2012 and was completed in January 2013.

Phase 2 cleanup will begin with the last 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River, dredging approximately 4.3 million cubic yards from bank to bank, placing a layer of sand over the area, and disposing of the dredged material at upland landfills and incinerators. Because the Passaic River adjoins Newark Bay, COA has signed onto a group letter written by NY/NJ Baykeeper supporting the planned remediation process for Phase 2.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed Phase 2 plan and ask questions at three public hearings. The first hearing will be at the Portuguese Sports Club (Main Room), 55 Prospect Street, in Newark on May 7 at 7:00pm. The second hearing will be at Franklin School, 100 Davis Avenue, in Kearny on May 21 at 6:00pm; with the third hearing slated for June in Belleville, location TBD.

For more information on the EPA's Proposed Plan and public hearings, visit OurPassaic.org.

SUPPORTING COA'S WORK

Diana Reinhardt Paradis, Development@cleanoceanaction.org

Supporter Spotlight: AVEDA - Earth Month 2014 Wraps Up



Clean Ocean Action was proud to partner with Aveda to celebrate Earth Month this April. Aveda, a company which strives to set an example for environmental leadership and responsibility, supported COA through a variety of events all month long.

Aveda salons in the area competed in the first-ever New York City 'trashion' fashion show; held several cut-a-thon's for clean water; organized raffles and bake sales; and held in-store educational events. Highlighting Aveda's high-performance, botanically based products, these events showcased their innovative, sustainable and recycled packaging (one example: bioplastics created from sugarcane ethanol). Beautiful results can be obtained without the use of chemicals which pollute our oceans.

"Aveda's mission calls on us to care for the world we live in and a key way we do that is through our annual Earth Month campaign to protect clean water," stated Katie Galloway, Aveda Earth Fund Director. "Clean Ocean Action has been a longtime partner of that program and we're proud to be working with an organization doing such impressive and important work to protect New York and New Jersey's marine environment."

Clean Ocean Action is grateful for the support received from Aveda.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, July 13, 2014



Calling all Paddlers! Clean Ocean Action is excited to announce we will be organizing this year's Shore Paddle with a Purpose -- Sunday, July 13 at Victory Park in Rumson, NJ. Funds raised by the event will be shared by Clean Ocean Action and Surfer's Environmental Alliance.

This year's fun activities will include:

- An 8 mile SUP race with cash prizes
- Calling all Paddlers! SUP and kayak "fun ride", 5 miles
- Activities for the whole family in Victory Park
- Free SUP and yoga demonstrations

Committee Chair Andrea Reichert, a SUP paddler and personal trainer, is joined by committee members Harris Davis, Ben Hamilton, Bill LaFleur, Richie Lee, Jake O'Donnell, Trudy and Charlie Parton, TJ Reilly, Chris and Paul Sansone, Jennifer Sidun, Ginger Tatem, Scott Thompson, Tracy Volbrecht, Greg Weber, Ariane Yazdan and Bryan Zinski.

For sponsorship information or to volunteer to help with this exciting event, please contact the COA office.