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Fall Events
NJ Energy Future
No Justice for the Ocean

September 2015 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action
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Save the Dates

Saturday, September 26th: Shore Paddle in Red Bank. Register on paddleguru.com.

Saturday, September 19th: Trash to Treasure Community Art Cleanups. Please visit our website and Facebook for more information.

Saturday, October 10th: Sandy Paws, main event in Asbury Park with other pack locations around NJ.

Saturday, October 24th: 30th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps at over 70 locations throughout the state. Registration is now open.

Wednesday, November 11th: Debris Free Seas: Finding solutions through science and citizen action at Brookdale Community College. More information will be provided soon.

For more information on these events and how to register please visit our website.

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of:
Wedding of Nancy Billyer & Demetrios Hadgis
Wedding of Kelly Mimnaugh & Mark Thompson

In Memory of:
Walter Ronald Aravich
Vera Annette Haddaway-Aunario
Samuel Karinja
William Lavin

Paddle, Pooches, & More

What's SUP in September?

The Summer SEASON is almost over, but it is still a great time to be on the water. Enjoy one last paddle with friends at COA's 2015 Shore Paddle on Saturday, September 26th at Marine Park in Red Bank, NJ.

The Shore Paddle will feature activities for all experience levels! The 6.5 Mile Race will kick off at 9 AM, 2.5 Mile Fun Paddle at 9:30 AM, and conclude with a half mile Kids Paddle at 10:30 AM. Throughout the morning there will be free SUP demo's, boards to test out, SUP Yoga, and family fun in Marine Park.

This year's event will also feature an after party at Jamian's in Red Bank with an awards ceremony, free food and drinks for all paddlers, and live music! Jump on board and register today at paddleguru.com before prices increase on the day of the event!

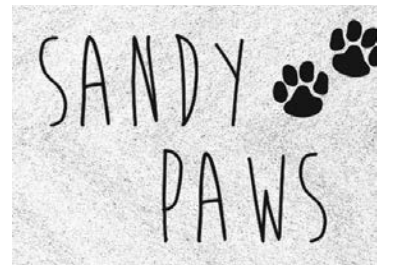


Sea Dogs Unite for Clean Beaches!!



Join us on Saturday, October 10th for the inaugural Sandy Paws Beach Walk where our furry friends can raise important funds for cleaner, safer beaches for people and pooches. Enjoy a beautiful morning on a beach near you or become a Pack Leader by hosting a walk for friends and family along your favorite shoreline along the coast. Or join the Super-Pack in Asbury Park and meet vendors and rescue groups on the boardwalk followed by the Asbury Bark "Tail" gating party!

Enter your sea dog to become the first King Neptune or Queen Mermaid! Start a fundraising team for your sea dog on COA's Crowdrise page. For information and registration go to the website: cleanoceanaction.org!



Fall Beach Sweeps Registration is now OPEN!

Let's make 2015 Fall Beach Sweeps the best yet! Join Clean Ocean Action for the 30th Annual Beach Sweeps on Saturday, October 24th 9 AM - 12:30 PM at 70+ locations throughout New Jersey.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the program, contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org. COA is always looking for new Beach Captains and volunteers. Don't forget to pre-register on our website and spread the word!



Zach Lees, policy@cleanoceanaction.org

NJ's Energy Future

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has requested comments on updates to New Jersey's Energy Master Plan, which lays out a strategic vision for the State's energy future. NJ has fallen behind in the transition to clean energy, and a revised Energy Master Plan is a first step in making our state a leader in this field once again. COA urged a wide scale implementation of conservation and efficiency measures as NJ's *first energy choice*. They are the least expensive and greenest, and studies have shown that conservation and energy efficiency can dramatically reduce energy usage. In addition, more should be done to implement renewable energy technologies to replace the outdated power plants, especially Oyster Creek nuclear power plant, scheduled to close in 2019, and BL England, a part-time coal plant that is seeking to retrofit to full-time natural gas with a once through cooling system. COA is also encouraging a renewed commitment to protecting NJ's critical energy infrastructure from the effects of climate change and sea level rise. To learn more about the work COA has done on this and related energy topics, please visit our blog.

Pipeline Battle

Related to New Jersey's energy future, on Friday, August 14, the Pinelands Commission issued a "certificate of filing" for the South Jersey Gas pipeline, essentially approving the controversial project without a vote by the Pinelands Commission. The pipeline would run through the Pinelands and its watershed habitat to the B.L. England Power Plant that is being retrofitted to switch from a part-time plant to a full-time, 24/7 power plant burning natural gas. However, documents prove that the plant is not needed and that there is more than enough energy available. Of great concern to marine life is that the plant has a once through cooling system and will slurp up water from Great Egg Harbor Bay that is rich with marine-life for energy generation and cooling purposes. COA and others were party to litigation to stop the once through cooling system led by Super Law Group, unfortunately, it failed. COA will keep you posted on this growing threat.



Protect the Delaware River!

Similarly, COA is supporting Delaware Riverkeeper's led efforts to stop NJDEP's recently issued permit renewal for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station that will allow continued water withdrawal and thermal discharge to the Delaware River. Under this renewed permit, Salem Nuclear Power Plant will continue to kill billions of fish and aquatic species each year, as it withdraws over 3 billion gallons of water per day, crushing larger organisms against screens and entraining anything small enough to get through the screens. NJDEP should have required cooling towers to be built by Exelon Generation LLC., the owners of the plant, which would reduce fish kills by 95%. If you would like to speak out against the NJDEP's decision to continue to allow this destruction of Delaware Bay, email susan.rosenwinkel@dep.nj.gov, and tell her that Salem Nuclear Power Plant should end this fish slaughter, and be required to build cooling towers.



Beach Day Not Sick Day

So far this summer, there have been a reported 62 "beach incidents" involving beach closures and/or contamination advisories due to poor water quality of popular beach areas. In order to combat this issue, Clean Ocean Action joined Senator Menendez and Congressman Pallone in announcing the re-authorization and strengthening of the BEACH Act (Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act). The law is now over 15 years old and needs to be updated, strengthened, and funded. US Senator Bob Menendez and Representative Frank Pallone are introducing bi-partisan legislation that will strengthen national water quality standards, require rapid testing methods to be used, provide states with grants to test water quality, and mandate public notifications when conditions are not safe. Importantly, COA is urging that the law require testing



after rainstorms due to the significant pollution in runoff. Whether swimming or recreating on the water, it should not be "swim at your own risk." Everyone should be informed about the water quality for their own health and safety. A beach day should not have to turn into a sick day! You can find information on NJ water quality at <https://njbeaches.org>. Clean Ocean Action checks this site daily, sharing closures and advisories on social media.

No Justice for the Ocean from Seismic Blasting

The ocean did not have a day in court. On August 22nd, the NJDEP withdrew their suit against the National Science Foundation, NOAA, and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, regarding Rutgers University led ocean blasting study off Long Beach Island. Two years of strong-arm tactics by federal agencies stopped a judge or jury from hearing the complaint, which focused on the many deficiencies in the environmental permitting process, and the impacts seismic surveying had on New Jersey's coastal interests. Even more disturbing is that the several issues related to the Coastal Zone Management Act and a State's ability to use these federal laws to prohibit environmentally harmful activities outside of their state waters was never heard. Throughout the two years that this expedition was reviewed, permitted, and undertaken, there have been manipulations, deficiencies, and flaws in the process. But none of these issues will be heard in a courtroom, and this leaves our coast and other state's coast vulnerable and unable to fully defend our resources. That is why ocean laws must be strengthened.

Ocean blasting is threatening the ocean south of NJ, as the Obama Administration has opened up the Mid-Atlantic to widespread seismic surveying for oil and gas exploration. COA will continue to fight against seismic surveying, and to that end, is submitting comments on the proposed permits issued by NOAA to harass, and even permanently injure marine mammals. The outstanding roster of elected officials and citizens who were outraged and opposed the ocean blasting was a testament to the deep concern for the sea. With the various threats targeting our ocean, we urgently need to establish a Clean Ocean Zone, strengthen our laws protecting the ocean, and warn other states what happened to us could happen to them. For more in-depth coverage please visit our blog.

Catie Tobin, education@cleanoceanaction.org

Student Summit Application Open

On Thursday, October 8th, middle school students from South Jersey can join COA in bringing science to the beach! COA's 27th Annual Student Summit expands learning beyond the classroom. It is designed to provide middle school students (Grades 5-8) from throughout New Jersey with an opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education at the Jersey shore, specifically, in the beautiful and unique setting of Island Beach State Park. The Student Summit (program and materials) are FREE. The application is now available online!



Save the Date: Marine Debris Conference 11.11.15

In celebration of thirty years of citizen action, COA will be hosting a marine debris conference – Debris Free Sea: Finding Solutions through Science and Citizen Action - on Wednesday, November 11th at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. The conference will be a one-day symposium, highlighting the success of the Beach Sweeps program, the ocean advocates involved, and the data that has resulted. In addition, the conference will discuss the larger issue of marine debris as it relates to science, policy, education, and citizen action. The workshops offered will encourage widespread participation from not only citizens and volunteers, but also scientists, politicians and students to promote discussion on local, state and national levels.

Speakers include representatives from ANJEC, Monmouth University's Urban Coastal Institute, TerraCycle, and Long Beach and Bridgewater Environmental Commissions.

Stay tuned for more information and registration!

Inaugural Blue Star Award Presented to Wall Township

On Wednesday, August 26th, Clean Ocean Action awarded the Blue Star certification to Wall Township, NJ, to recognize their effort to improve water quality. Clean Ocean Action'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.

Wall Township achieved 90 of the necessary 75 points to attain the Municipal Blue Star certification. Examples of the actions completed include Community Education & Outreach, Education for Sustainability Programs, and Open Space Plans. In addition to Sustainable Jersey projects, towns are required to choose one of COA's additional actions. Wall Township completed the Innovative Water Quality Project action through partnering with Monmouth County in a Wreck Pond Sediment Control Project. This project works to improve water quality within the watershed in an effort to help resolve impairments that contribute to the precautionary closings of the Spring Lake beaches. Additionally, Wall Township afforded its residents with a Clean Water and Lawn Conservation Program that educates the community on promoting better conservation and green practices. The development of the Program was made possible by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Wall Township joins Long Beach Township as the second of two inaugural Blue Star towns. Congratulation to our Blue Star inductees!

