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LABEL

Rutgers Ocean Blasting 26 Times Worse
 NJ Elected Officials Defend Our Ocean
 NY City Council Pass Port Ambrose Resolution

June 2015 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action
 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
 Highlands, NJ 07732
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COAST SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer is here! A great time to educate citizens about current ocean pollution issues at information tables on beaches, beach clubs, and festivals around NJ. We are still looking for volunteers for our COAST program. If you are interested in learning more or want to become a COAST volunteer call 732-872-0111 or email Nicole Dallara at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

EDUCATION AMBASSADORS

Do you love the Ocean? Are you a teacher or comfortable doing presentations? If so, then Clean Ocean Action Education Ambassador is the program for you! Ambassadors will assist COA's education program by conducting presentations about ocean issues to schools and community groups.

For more information contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org or call 732-872-0111

SAVE THE DATES

- June 8th World Ocean Day
- June 12th - 14th Belmar Seafood Festival
- June 13th Gold's Gym Boardwalk Workout Long Branch
- September 26th Shore Paddle
- October 10th Sandy Paws

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of:

Juliet Lawton's High School Graduation
 Valerie & Frank Montecalvo
 Nancy Billyer & Demitrios Hadgis Wedding

In Memory of

Barbara Bennett
 Samuel Karinja
 William Mass
 Nancy Prall Morris
 Ian Passingham
 Reinhold Family Members
 Rip & Joe Schiavone

Elected Officials & Agencies Opposing Rutgers Seismic Study in the Summer



US Senator Robert Menendez

US Senator Cory Booker

US Representative Frank Pallone

US Representative Chris Smith

US Representative Tom MacArthur

US Representative Frank LoBiondo

New Jersey Senate President Sweeney

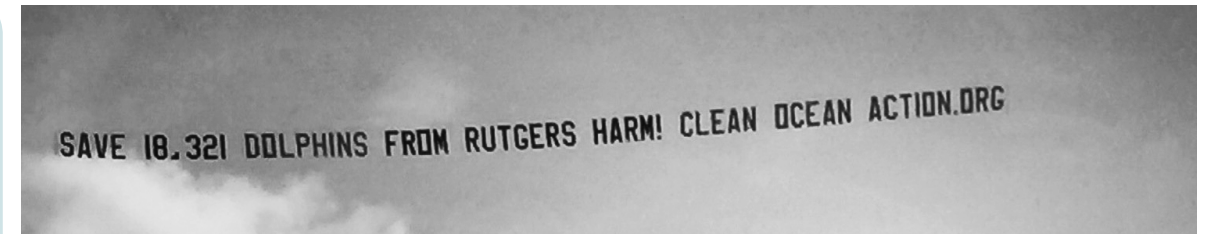
NJ 9th District State Senator Christopher Connors

Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove

Assemblyman Brian Rumpf

NJDEP

Rutgers Study Set to Blast 26 Times More Marine Mammals



The newly issued Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for the Rutgers seismic study is now 26 times worse than originally proposed! If allowed, the Rutgers University study could harm, harass, and torment 18,457 marine mammals including 18,321 dolphins and their infant calves. The original number proposed in 2014 was 694. New Jersey elected officials and COA are taking action to defend our ocean and marine life:

- US Senator Booker wrote to Dr. Sullivan, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, formally requesting that the National Marine Fisheries Service withdraw the IHA needed for the Rutgers seismic study to legally harass marine mammals and reopen the comment period so that concerned organizations and the public are given a meaningful opportunity to review this survey.
- NJ Senate President Sweeney and US Representative Pallone authored a letter directed to Rutgers University President Barchi, urging him to cancel the study or, at minimum, schedule it for outside the peak summer months and revise the plans to be less harmful to marine life.
- COA has written a letter to Rutgers University Board of Governor's urging them to cancel the seismic study, or alternatively conduct the study in the winter months when less life and livelihoods would be affected. We have also sent a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service requesting them to reopen the notice and comment period for the issued IHA.

The relentless seismic blasts from air-gun arrays at 246 decibels every 5-6 seconds, 24 hours a day for 30 days can cause serious harm to marine life, including:

- Harassment of over 32 species, mostly bottlenose dolphins, including newborn calves.
- 6 endangered species of whales: northern right, humpback, sei, fin, blue and sperm whales.
- 5 species of endangered sea turtles, including the Kemp's Ridley—the most endangered sea turtle on the planet!
- Studies show that fish can also be injured or scared off by seismic blasts.
- Over 230 square miles of ocean will be impacted including prime fishing locations such as The Fingers, Barnegat Ridge, The Lillian Wreck, and 28 Mile Wreck.

Help save New Jersey marine life by calling and emailing Rutgers University President Barchi urging him to cancel the seismic study to avoid harming New Jersey dolphins and marine mammals during peak summer months for migration and breeding!

Call President Barchi: 848-932-7454

Visit our Blog <http://cleanoceanaction.blogspot.com/> for more information on this issue and a draft email sample message.

Policy

Zach Lees, policy@cleanoceanaction.org

NY City Council Unanimously Pass Port Ambrose Resolution

The New York City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on Governor Cuomo to veto Port Ambrose! Councilman Donovan Richards, the sponsor of the resolution, has been a leader and vocal opponent of the Port Ambrose LNG facility. Councilman Richards, along with our Coalition partners in New York worked tirelessly to get this resolution passed!



Activists at NYC Council Hearing

Currently 12 local municipalities have passed a resolution opposing an LNG facility in the New York & New Jersey Bight. Has your town passed a resolution opposing LNG? Please contact Nicole Dallara at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org for a sample resolution and more information.

NY & NJ Residents Join Hands

Waves of thanks to everyone who came out to Hands Across the Sand in Bradley Beach, Ocean City, New Jersey and Long Beach, New York. Congressman Pallone, Long Beach Council Members, concerned citizens, and various environmental groups joined hands to show opposition to the various fossil fuel development projects threatening our coast here and around the world.



Congressman Pallone joining hands in Bradley Beach

The recent spill in Santa Barbara shows the devastation an onshore pipeline spill can cause. It is imperative that we come together to oppose the industrialization of our ocean, whether it is offshore oil and

gas development, seismic testing, or LNG terminals. We need to draw a line in the sand not just for one day in May, but every day. Our ocean, marine life, and coastal economies continue to be threatened and we must work to protect them!

COA Took to the Hill Recap of Blue Vision Summit & Healthy Ocean Hill Day

Clean Ocean Action helped to make history! We were part of the largest Healthy Ocean Hill Day, with 161 congressional meetings and 26 states represented on the Hill advocating for ocean issues. The New Jersey Hill Day group met with 13 of our 14 elected officials' offices! We discussed both national and local ocean issues.

Not only did we meet personally with Congressman LoBiondo, but we took the photo of the day – a selfie with Senator Cory Booker! Healthy Ocean's Hill Day was part of the 5th Annual Blue Vision Summit in Washington DC. During May 11th - 14th we heard from renowned speakers including Ralph Nader, Fabien Cousteau, Representative Sam Farr, and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. There were also discussions on various issues such as plastic pollution, offshore oil drilling, and youth leadership.

The Blue Vision Summit was a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with different organizations and ocean minded people from around the country working to protect our marine environment.



Selfie with US Senator Cory Booker

Education

Catie Tobin, education@cleanoceanaction.org

Students Experience A Day of Science at the Beach COA's Student Summit Brings Learning Beyond the Classroom

Over 1,000 middle school students, teachers, and naturalists gathered on Sandy Hook on May 14th and 15th to participate in Clean Ocean Action's 27th Annual Student Summit. Students from 29 schools from North Jersey experienced hands-on marine environmental education by participating in six environmental roundtables and twelve interactive fieldtrips.

Some of the environmental learning activities included invertebrate identification, an interactive horseshoe crab demonstration, and activities to identify and propose solutions for pollution sources. Students were instructed on the proper handling of horseshoe crabs and explored the impact on debris on marine life.

Students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) High School served as peer teachers at workstations and on field trips. They were able to apply what they've learned at MAST and teach the next generation on the importance of marine ecosystems and protecting marine life.

In addition, local naturalists and other marine education professionals led students in twelve field activities throughout the park. The children explored Sandy Hook as they traversed the trails while they went birding, and others swept the beach of debris and learned of the harmful effects of litter on marine life. Who wouldn't love learning while at the beach?

Clean Ocean Action's summits have expanded learning beyond the classroom for thousands of middle school students in New Jersey for 27 years. COA's mission is to educate and engage citizens on the importance of marine life and a healthy ocean, and through the Student Summits we strive to do just that.



Big Research on Tiny Problem Microplastic Research Agenda Released

Clean Ocean Action's Microplastics Research Agenda is now available on the web! The agenda outlines the current phase that is underway and expands on future phases. The goal is to document the scope and magnitude of microplastics on New Jersey beaches, in waterways, along the coastline and in marine life. In January 2014, COA put together a committee of international and national scientists to establish a model for marine ecosystems. In collaboration with this research team, specifically the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), COA launched the first microplastics research study in New Jersey with initial sampling in the Spring of 2014. COA is excited to release the initial findings from phase I later this summer. For more information about the project, contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org.

Only two weeks left to help COA receive a grant from the Ocean First Foundation! COA is currently participating in a "Charity Challenge" on



Crowdrise with over 60 other organization who are competing for a \$15,000 grant. Show your support for our organization by making a donation of any size. Every penny raised on our page will be directed toward COA's independent research study on microplastics.

All Aboard

Tory Woods, events@cleanoceanaction.org

Paddle 4 Blue - NYC to Chicago

Margo Pellegrino has embarked on a 2,000 mile paddling adventure from NYC to Chicago to highlight the upstream impacts on our Ocean downstream! She will paddle up the Hudson River, into the Erie Canal and then the Great Lakes to Chicago at the southern end of Lake Michigan. During her two month journey Margo will be taking water samples and will be meeting with local organizations and activists who work to keep our waterways clean! You can follow Margo on her paddling adventure through her blog paddle4blue.com, on social media Facebook – The Big Apple to the Big Easy, Instagram @1slowpaddler & Twitter @slowpaddler.



Margo paddling down Hudson

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 26th COA's Shore Paddle on the Navesink!

Contact Tory for more details!

Welcome Nicole & Zach!

COA welcomes **Nicole Dallara** to the 'crew' as our Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Nicole has four years' experience in volunteer management, media, publication production, and community organizing as Outreach Coordinator for the NJ Sierra Club. She has a BS in Environmental Policy, Institutions and Behavior with a minor in Environmental Business and Economics from Rutgers University.



As the Communications and Outreach Coordinator at Clean Ocean Action, Nicole is the primary point person for outreach and organizing for ocean pollution issues, and is responsible for coordinating with Participating Organizations, businesses, volunteers, media, and production of outreach materials.

Nicole has jumped right into the waters here at COA, and in her first month helped organize a NO LNG public meeting, Earth Month events, 30th Anniversary Beach Sweeps, a Washington DC Hill Day, and production of this newsletter! As warm weather approaches, she looks forward to not letting elected officials "flip flop" on issues. Nicole enjoys paddle boarding, traveling, and yoga.

You can reach Nicole at Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org.



Zachary Lees joins the COA Crew as our Ocean Policy Attorney. Zach attained a JD degree and a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy at Vermont Law School, graduating cum laude. He has a varied background from sea to mountains as a Legal Intern at Trustees for Alaska in Anchorage and a Legal Clerk for Vermont Natural Resources Council. Zach is an accomplished creative writer and public speaker with divergent interests in guitar, snowboarding, kayaking, surfing, and soccer.

We look forward to Zach's proficient talents helping to shape regional and national ocean protection policies through COA's work. COA welcomes Zach and his philosophy, "I firmly believe in the power of environmental regulation as an agent of positive change...My professional goals are aligned with my passions: to work in a position that makes a positive impact every day and to use the legal and policy channels available to solve environmental issues, sustain positive successes, support environmental conservation, and use environmentally minded regulation to foster economic and social progress."

Zach can be reached at policy@cleanoceanaction.org.