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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
APRIL 2024

Run The Hook—Mother's Day, May 12



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www.CleanOceanAction.org
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Clean Ocean Action
49 Avenue Blvd.



Celebrating 40 Years
of Ocean Advocacy



Honored to be recognized as USA TODAY Women of the Year 2024 for NJ



All Gannett papers in NJ carried this front page news

announced as Women of the Year 2024! Please take a moment to visit their website to be inspired!

Ever onward for the ocean,
Cindy

Only days after COA's 40th birthday, the Crew and I were moved by the news of being an honoree for USA TODAY's Women of the Year 2024 for NJ. This annual recognition began in 2022 to highlight the 100th Anniversary of the woman's right to vote. Each year, women are recognized for their national work, and each state selects an awardee.

Success is never achieved alone. This recognition is in honor of the amazing science, education, research, and advocacy work of the COA team, and the dedicated groups, businesses, elected officials, communities, and thousands of remarkable volunteers of all ages!

USA TODAY's recognition of COA's transformative and trailblazing success should serve as a call to action for everyone to continue to step-up to protect the imperiled ocean. Waves of thanks, USA TODAY, part of Gannett Co. Inc., and to the Asbury Park Press, which nominated COA. Congratulations, again, to all the inspiring, resilient honorees



Waves of thanks to Valerie Montecalvo for commemorating the Women of the Year honor with a beautiful glass-encased frame of the announcement

OCEAN POLICY

Annie Licata, Ocean Campaign Manager, Advocacy@CleanOceanAction.org
Erika Bosack, Policy Attorney, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Offshore Wind Accelerates Despite Unknowns

On March 6, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP) released its draft solicitation guidance document (SGD) for its fourth offshore wind (OSW) solicitation and accepted public comments on the document until March 27, 2024. The NJBP also held a virtual public meeting on March 20 at which COA opposed the proposal. In the name of good science, due diligence, good governance, and before any OSW development is constructed or additional contracts awarded, COA stands behind its call for:

1. key environmental pilot studies be completed,
2. an investigation into the spike in marine mammal deaths, and
3. a review of the results of the pending federal Government Accountability Office cost benefit analysis.

In this fourth solicitation, NJBP seeks to approve up to an additional 4,000 megawatts (MW) of OSW energy capacity. New Jersey previously approved 7,500 MW in the first three OSW solicitations despite environmental and economic data gaps, industry turmoil, and public concern.



NJBP holds virtual public stakeholder meeting for the fourth solicitation for more OSW

New York Also Fast-Tracks Offshore Wind, Approving Project Rebids

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) allowed three corporations to rebid financially nonviable offshore wind contracts as part of the state's fourth solicitation. Empire Wind 1 rebid its 80,000-acre project off Monmouth County, NJ, and Nassau County, NY, and Ørsted rebid its 86,000-acre Sunrise Wind project off Suffolk County, NY. In early January 2024, Empire Wind 2 cancelled its original agreement with New York due to macroeconomic factors with plans to rebid at a higher price for future development. Empire Wind is being developed solely by Equinor, a Norwegian energy company, as its original co-partner British Petroleum (BP) sold its stake to Equinor on January 30, 2024.

Read more about offshore wind on page 2...

TRIBUTES

In Memory of:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Le Roy "Bud" Bunnell and his love of the ocean | Carol Anne Ross |
| Peter Cauterucci | Jerry Schulte |
| David Crotty | Drew Thompson |
| Michele Ferro Jasionowski | Edna Mae Waters |
| Andrew Mencinsky | Tommy Waters |
| Vatsala Muralidhara | Greg Weber |
| Mary Beth Roemer-Collier | Richard Wexler |
| | Geoff Zipf |

In Honor of:

70th Birthdays of Donn Fluhr & John Badenhausen
Cindy Zipf, NJ Woman of the Year

SAVE THE DATES

- Staten Island Student Summit**
April 18
- Run the Hook**
May 12
- Sandy Hook Student Summit**
May 15 & 16
- Eco Fest**
June 1 (rain date: June 2)
- Surf Open**
September or October (TBA)
- Fall Beach Sweeps**
October 19
- Cape May Student Summit**
October 3
- Island Beach State Park Student Summit**
October 10

Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action!

COA has a variety of SEA-rific and exciting opportunities from talking with people at community events to becoming a volunteer Community Scientist! Find the best fit for you and complete a volunteer form today at:

[CleanOceanAction.org/Help-Your-Ocean/Volunteer-Opportunities](https://www.CleanOceanAction.org/Help-Your-Ocean/Volunteer-Opportunities)

More Wind Project Proposals Off NJ?

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced it will initiate the environmental review of a proposed 81,129-acre wind energy project located 8.4 miles offshore New Jersey. On March 18, 2024, BOEM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submitted by Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC (Atlantic Shores). During the public comment period, BOEM will hold two virtual and three in-person public meetings, one of which is in Asbury Park. For more information about where and how to attend, visit cleanoceanaction.org.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Water Quality Research Director, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Kaylee DiPasquale, Community Science Program Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Celebrating World Water Day, Every Day!

World Water Day is celebrated around the globe each year on March 22. Originally created by the United Nations to highlight the importance of freshwater resources, the day of celebration has grown to raise awareness of the widespread need for clean water for all. At COA, we strive to do our part and celebrate world water every day through our water quality programs!

Through outreach, education, and community partnerships, our water quality team works on addressing how we can keep our watershed free from pollutants, before they get to the ocean. In 2016, COA established the Rally for the Waterways program in the Navesink River watershed to work collaboratively with municipalities to track and eliminate pathogen pollution sources with community scientists. Since then, we have launched the Rally for the Two Rivers, Rally for Barnegat Bay, and Rally for Deal Lake to find and fix pathogen pollution sources. Under the Rally for the Waterways, the goal is to ensure that our waterways are safe and clean.

Check out our social media for videos from our Community Scientists on World Water Day!

Source: "World Water Day," unwater.org, United Nations, 2024, <https://www.unwater.org/our-work/world-water-day>.



Rally for the Two Rivers sampling site for the Shrewsbury River

Rally for Two Rivers Hosts First Public Meeting of the Year



Rally for the Two Rivers public meeting

On March 20, Rally for Two Rivers held its first public meeting since the ambient bacteria monitoring program was relaunched in the summer of 2023. The hybrid meeting was held at COA headquarters in Long Branch, and via Zoom. The water quality team welcomed government officials, health department personnel, Environmental Commissions, and members of the public to share updates on their ambient bacteria monitoring programs with NJDEP. Some of the speakers included Rumson Environmental Commission sharing updates on their green infrastructure projects and their involvement in partnering to host the annual Rally for the Two Rivers Ecofest (for more details see page 3). Monmouth County Health Department discussed their "Greener Blue" pump-out boat program that removes sanitary wastes from boats in the Two Rivers watershed. Rumson

Fair-Haven High School students also presented their NJ Endangered Species Campaign and many other speakers shared updates from around the watershed.

Additionally, the Rally for Two Rivers is partnering with Bridge of Books Foundation to host a children's book drive from March 25 to April 12. Community members will be able to drop off any new and used children's books (for ages 3-18) in a donation box at COA's office. Please reach out to Kaylee DiPasquale at Programs@CleanOceanAction.org with any questions!



Rumson Fair-Haven High School students present their NJ Endangered Species Campaign at the public meeting

SOUTH JERSEY

Toni Groet, South Jersey Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Connect with COA on NJ's Southern Coast

Thank you to those who came to our Tuckerton Meet and Greet on March 26! If you're looking for more ways to connect with COA, tag along with us this spring to sites all over South Jersey. We'll be tabling at festivals, speaking at celebrations of the "Get Past Plastics" law, and leading an offshore wind information session. Check out our website and social media for more information on these events and more! See the map to find COA this spring!

Interested in volunteering with us at these events or having a COA table at an event near you?

Please reach out to South Jersey Coordinator, Toni Groet at TGroet@CleanOceanAction.org.



Where can I find COA in South NJ this Spring?

- April 14 - Margate Cherry Blossom Festival
- April 20 - Cape May Zoo's Earth Day
- April 25 - COA Offshore Wind Info Session
- April 27 - Stockton Community Day
- April 27 - Ventnor Get Past Plastics Celebration
- April 28 - ACUA's Earth Day
- May 18 & 19 - Mayfest in Historic Smithville

Questions? Interested in volunteering?
Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org
www.CleanOceanAction.org

EVENTS

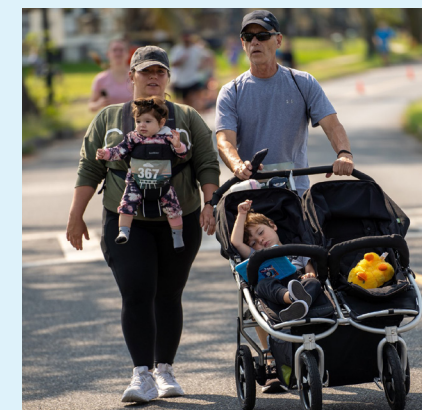
Jocelyn Graham, Resource & Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org

9th Annual Run The Hook! The Mother's Day Run for Mother Ocean - May 12!

Celebrate Mother's Day with a dash along the coast at the 9th Annual Run The Hook! It's not just a race; it's a call to action for our beloved Mother Ocean, uniting participants in a scenic 5k/10k run at Sandy Hook, NJ. Join the COA crew and fellow runners to support our mission to protect our local waterways, all while enjoying the scenic views of the Sandy Hook Bay. Every runner will be awarded a commemorative t-shirt and a finisher's glass.

Secure your spot now at \$40 for the 5k and \$50 for the 10k by registering at www.RunTheHookNJ.com or use the QR Code below. Let's make waves together for a cleaner debris-free sea!

Celebrate your achievement and join fellow runners and supporters at the post-race gathering at Mule Barn Tavern. RSVP is required and subject to venue capacity limits.



Families walking together to celebrate Mother's Day at Run The Hook

Special thanks to COA's Board of Trustees Secretary and Beacon Events owner, Joey Garofalo for his unwavering support and dedication to Clean Ocean Action by hosting this event! It is a fun opportunity to engage with other community members who have a passion for protecting our waterways. Hope to SEA you there!

Location: Field 102, S Bragg Dr. & Kilpatrick Rd., Sandy Hook, NJ

Time: Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10:00AM

BIB Pick-up: Road Runner Sports, Shrewsbury, NJ on Saturday, May 11, 2024 (11AM - 2 PM) or Race Day at Field 102 starting at 8:30AM. Advanced pick-up is highly encouraged!

Scan the QR code to register for Run The Hook



Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 9am - 12:30pm

FREE!

Rain Date: June 2

For more info visit CleanOceanAction.org

@RallyfortheTwoRivers

Take the Environmental Passport Challenge!

Family Fun!

Eco-friendly Crafts!

Love Your Rivers

Calling the Small to the Tall! Free Eco-Fest with Eco-Fun!



Calling the Small to the Tall Free Eco-Fest at Victory Park

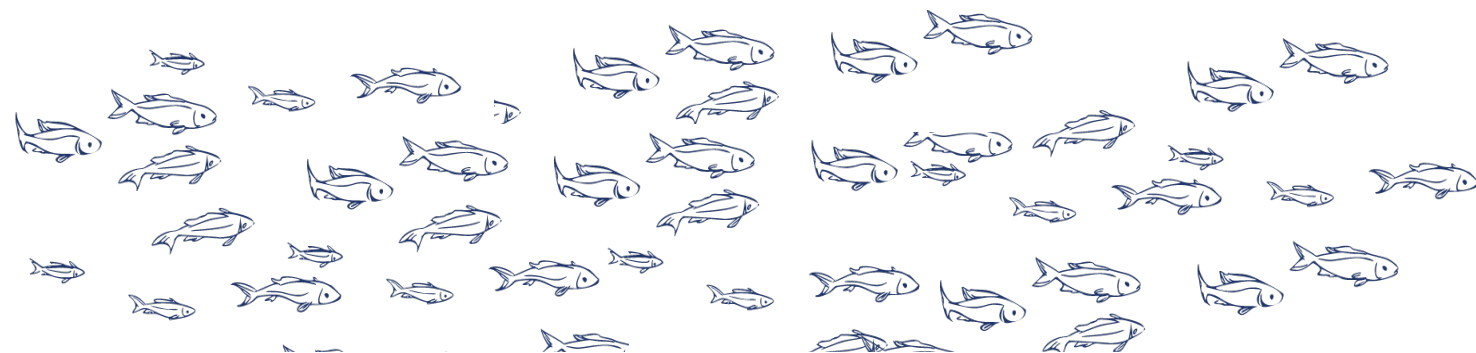
Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest, hosted by Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission, returns to Victory Park for its sixth year on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (rain date: June 2).

Come join us for a jam-packed morning of seining, environmentally friendly crafts, hands-on environmental demonstrations, face painting, music, and more!

We're still accepting interest forms from environmentally minded organizations to have a free, educational table! Your activity will be part of the day's eco-friendly festivities. Email inquiries to Education@CleanOceanAction.org.

Every activity at Eco-Fest provides an important environmental lesson, which many teachers find useful to connect with their climate change curriculum during the second half of the school year! For teachers to incentivize student attendance, we encourage offering 1 pt extra credit or a homework pass to any student who completes the **Passport Challenge** at Eco-Fest.

The Passport Challenge encourages students to travel to every activity station, where they will learn important environmental lessons while filling up their passport with stamps that show participation! Fully stamped Passports will be redeemable at local businesses for **free treats and big discounts!** This is a wonderful way for students and families to get outside, learn about local waterways, support local businesses and enjoy the rewards of environmental learning



Red Bank Deputy Mayor Kate Triggiano Educates and Inspires the SEALs

Reaching out to decision makers and people in power is often intimidating for anyone! As the Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEALs) take actionable steps to reach their community-project goals, they will learn how to engage with local elected leaders. This year, guest speaker Kate Triggiano, Red Bank's Deputy Mayor, who shared her remarkable story and empowered them with guidance and confidence. She praised their environmental leadership and assured them that their voices are welcomed and valued. She also urged them to consider running for public office! The SEALs asked thoughtful questions from how Deputy Mayor Triggiano decided to run for office and what it was like, to what a Town Council meeting entails.



SEAL students learn from Red Bank's Deputy Mayor, Kate Triggiano

After the refreshing and engaging discussions, the students were noticeably more comfortable and confident about their project ideas and next steps.

Waves of thanks to Kate Triggiano for taking the time to share valuable insight and experience with the SEAL students. We are so grateful for this connection!

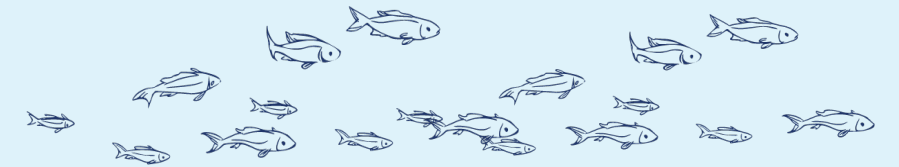
World Water Day Kicks Off Corporate Beach Sweeps Registration!



Visual Lease team participating in Corporate Beach Sweeps 2023 at Sandy Hook

World Water Day (WWD) welcomed the approaching COA Corporate Beach Sweeps season by opening applications for summer 2024! This year's WWD theme, 'Water for Peace,' emphasizes the crucial role water plays in the stability and prosperity of the world and seems most fitting to the concept of Corporate Beach Sweeps. The Corporate Sweeps allow businesses to come together, enhancing their team-building skills, while also doing work that gives back to the ocean and the community by removing harmful debris. Every piece removed counts! Are you ready to make a difference with your company this summer? Sign up today!

For more information, please visit CleanOceanAction.org or reach out to the program coordinator, Kira Cruz, at BeachSweeps@CleanOceanAction.org.



2024 Sustainability in Motion Conference Success

In March, COA's Debris Free Sea Coordinator, Kira Cruz, attended the 2nd Annual Sustainability in Motion Conference in Atlantic City. This successful event was hosted by NJ Clean Communities (NJCC) and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers. At the conference, Kira was able to connect and build partnership opportunities with like-minded environmental organizations, such as the nonprofit Love Blue Inc. whose mission and passion is to conserve the ocean through community outreach and organized beach cleanups.

The conference brings together eclectic groups and organizations with similar missions to enhance their communities, as well as open many doors to further collaborations.

Many waves of thanks to NJCC for the warm invite to be an exhibitor at the event this year!



Kira (center) with Love Blue Inc. CEO AJ Caruso (right) and Executive Board Member, Ryan Lombardi (left)