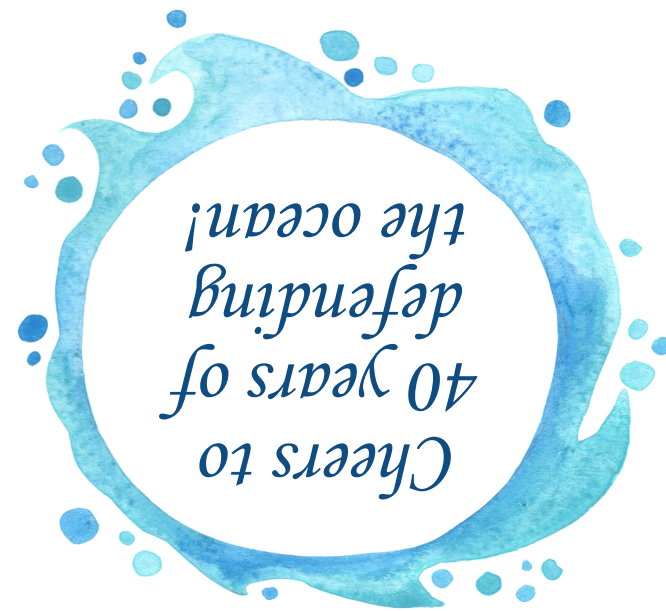




Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action  
49 Avenue Blvd.  
Long Branch, NJ 07740  
www.CleanOceanAction.org



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE  
FEBRUARY 2024



### Greetings True-Blue Friends of Clean Ocean Action!

Nearly 40 years ago, on February 26, 1984, over 200 people gathered at the historic Peninsula House, in Sea Bright, NJ, to launch a bold vision—a unique coalition of seemingly disparate groups with an audacious idea at the time—end ocean dumping of waste and stop ocean pollution. Since then, we have worked together and transformed this region’s ocean realm from one of the most polluted in the nation to a cleaner, thriving marine ecosystem and premier coastal tourism destination!

This transformation and the 40 years of remarkable success are **a legacy and a testament to all of you, the power of the people, who work so hard defending the ocean!** And, while there is much to celebrate, the fight’s not over. The ocean is again in peril—this time from massive industrialization and climate change. The ocean continues to depend on you, as we work together, to battle on!

We hope you will continue to join us as we embark on this momentous year to make a splash to save our sea!

Ever onward,

Cindy

Waves of thanks for 40 years of supporting a clean and healthy ocean!

## POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Annie Licata, Ocean Campaign Manager, [Advocacy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Advocacy@CleanOceanAction.org)

### Offshore Wind Moves Rapidly Ahead While Industry in Financial Turmoil

Recent news and decisions, including cancelled projects, companies selling investments in offshore wind (OSW) projects, or OSW companies seeking more money to make projects viable, clearly highlight the financial turmoil within the industry. On January 3, 2024, Equinor and BP announced an agreement with New York to terminate a key contract for the **90-turbine** OSW project Empire Wind 2. The contract set the price of energy the state would pay the companies. Equinor and BP want more money from New York than initially contracted. The project is not cancelled, but the fiscal concerns are evident.

With the OSW projects and proposals still being fast-tracked, the public has upcoming opportunities to raise concerns and demand reasonable and responsible offshore wind. Please consider taking action as listed below, and see [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) for more details and helpful resources:

- **New Proposal to Harm Thousands of Marine Mammals:** Atlantic Shores is requesting an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to harass marine mammals with underwater noise while conducting high-resolution geophysical seismic and sonar surveys in three OSW lease areas and the associated export cable corridor areas. The proposal includes new activities in an expanded area. Atlantic Shores has already received **six** IHAs for their offshore wind preconstruction work for multiple OSW projects.

**Take Action:** Your voice is needed! Send comments with concerns to [ITP.Clevenstine@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Clevenstine@noaa.gov) by February 5, 2024.

- **Public Meetings and Comments on Environmental Impacts of Six OSW Power Plants:** In the latest attempt to speed up OSW energy development, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) released one lengthy Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for **six** OSW lease areas in the NY Bight. This is the first time BOEM has issued a PEIS for multiple OSW lease areas, which in this case totals over **488,000 acres** of the ocean.

**Take Action:** (a) Attend/Speak at virtual (January 31 and February 13, 2024) and/or in-person (February 5, 7, and 8, 2024) public meetings, and (b) write/send comments to BOEM requesting a 90-day extension to the comment period and/or outlining concerns. Comment deadline: February 26, 2024.



Humpback whale breaching  
Photo Credit: RawPixel

## TRIBUTES

### In Memory of:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ed Barrow                        | Jersey Girl             |
| Christopher A. Blackman          | Harry Kegelman          |
| Peter Cauterucci                 | Pat Kirsh               |
| Stephen Clair                    | Joseph Kupcha           |
| Matteo Liam Coffey               | Dennis Lynch            |
| David B. Crotty                  | Dennis Reynolds         |
| Vee Currier                      | Carol Anne Ross         |
| Beeze and Harry Douty            | Sammy                   |
| Anne “Basie” Maddock Ewing       | Arno Schwartz           |
| Bryan E. Fitch                   | Watson Stillwaggon      |
| Walter “Duke” Frattin            | Arthur Stupar           |
| Louise Gingery                   | Drew Thompson           |
| Ben Hamilton                     | Janet and Norbert Turek |
| James Hanlon                     | Franz von Ziegesar      |
| James Hoburg                     | Zac Wald                |
| Michele Ferro Jasionowski        | William Wigginton       |
| George, Ethel, and Ronnie Jensen | Barbara Dillon Woolson  |

### In Honor of:

- Elisabeth Allcock
- Zev B.
- Judy Buchanan
- The Buckley Family
- Kristy and Tony Caldarella
- Ray Dodd
- Scottie Franklin
- Colin Loch
- Sam Mogul
- Ruth Ann and Frank Pelly
- Sands Webber

### Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action!

COA has a variety of SEA-rific and exciting opportunities to get involved from talking with people at 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](http://CleanOceanAction.org/Help-Your-Ocean/Volunteer-Opportunities)

### HELP STOP VIOLATIONS of GET PAST PLASTIC LAW!

Thanks to you, NJ's law to reduce single-use plastics has reduced billions of plastic bags, straws and foam containers, resulting in less litter in the ocean and our communities! You can help keep this progress going!

If you see stores, restaurants, and businesses giving out plastic bags, foam plastic containers or providing plastic straws without request, follow these steps:

**Step One:** Share the facts about the law with the store owner—they may be unaware! Share the QR code if that doesn't work...

**Step Two:** Report businesses to the NJDEP! Call 1-877-WARN DEP to report violations of the statewide Get Past Plastic law.

Let's continue to reduce single-use plastics, New Jersey!



Share this QR code to inform businesses of the NJ law to reduce single-use plastics or go to [Dep.nj.gov/Get-Past-Plastic](http://Dep.nj.gov/Get-Past-Plastic)

**HELP STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION!**  
First, share the facts about NJ's Get Past Plastic Law with business owners.  
If businesses continue to violate the law,  
**Call 1-877-WARN DEP**

### SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Water Quality Research Director, [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Kaylee DiPasquale, Community Science Program Coordinator, [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org)

#### Rally for the Waterways Welcomes New Community Scientists at Training

The Water Quality Team kicked off the new year with yet another training session to recruit volunteer community scientists to help with the ongoing bacteria monitoring in the Navesink and Shrewsbury River watersheds. The training session was hosted on January 12, 2024, at COA's office and included a field training for water sampling at Jackson Woods Park. COA is actively seeking community scientists and welcomes interested volunteers to contact [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org).



COA's Kaylee instructing new Rally for the Waterways volunteers



Volunteers gather to learn how to collect water samples for testing



COA's Swarna and Kaylee demonstrate sampling methods



Road salt testing volunteers field training

#### COA in Action: Road Salt Monitoring

COA is back in action with road salt monitoring for winter 2023-2024 season! As in the past years, COA is collaborating with New Jersey Watershed Watch to investigate the impacts of deicing applications on chloride water quality in select non-tidal, upstream tributaries in the Shrewsbury watershed. Data collected from this study will be shared online at [CleanWaterHub.org](http://CleanWaterHub.org).

**CLEAN OCEAN ACTION BEACH SWEEPS**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
9am - 12:30pm (rain or shine)  
Volunteers of all ages needed at 75+ NJ locations!  
**Register at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)**  
(Registration opens February 14)

**GET YOUR BUCKETS READY**

**CLEAN OCEAN ACTION SANDY HOOK STUDENT SUMMIT**  
**MAY 15 and/or MAY 16**

Clean Ocean Action's Annual Student Summit returns to Sandy Hook, NJ this spring!

- Free program designed to meet core curriculum standards
- Unique, hands-on educational activities reinforcing STEM concepts
- Combines peer-to-peer learning with outdoor connections to the sea and environmental stewardship

\*Eligible for 5th-8th grade students in the following counties: Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic and Morris.  
**Apply by April 15.**

Questions? Please email Kristen Grazioso: [Education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Education@CleanOceanAction.org)

# EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, [Education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Education@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Kira Cruz, Debris Free Sea Coordinator, [BeachSweeps@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:BeachSweeps@CleanOceanAction.org)

## SEAL Students - Making Waves in 2024

After three months of learning about different ways change is made from the ground up, the Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) students are digging into the process of making a difference! They have toured the NJ State House Annex, spoken with the League of Women Voters, heard the policy process from the perspective of a licensed lobbyist, and have learned more from Clean Ocean Action's team. Pulling from these experiences and various angles of influence, the students are now in the beginning stages of creating their individual community-based projects to help improve an environmental issue of their choice.

COA looks forward to sharing the enlightening and impressive projects of these young environmental advocates!



SEALs discuss plans and processes for their community-based projects

## Ocean Protection "Baked-In" by Young Environmental Stewards

Clean Ocean Action attended Mendham High School's International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP) Philanthropy Day for a Panel and Donation Ceremony. A group of Mendham High School's students in the program chose to organize a fundraiser for Clean Ocean Action. It was an honor to be chosen by the "Habitat Heroes" group, who included Olivia, Ali, Cian, and Henrik, who raised \$341.10 with their bake sale.

Waves of thanks to Mendham High School and the Habitat Heroes for their enthusiastic support for a clean and healthy ocean!



The "Habitat Heroes" with COA's Kristen Grazioso (on right)

## Long Branch Students Learn to Be the Sea Change

Dedicated COA volunteer Education Ambassador, Kelly Flanagan, presented how to "Be the Sea Change" to over 400 students from the George L. Catrambone (GLC) School in Long Branch, NJ, before the new year! By helping narrate an inspirational picture book called, "Sea Change" by Joel Harper, the K-5 students learned important lessons of environmental stewardship and the harmful impacts of marine debris. Waves of thanks to Kelly for engaging youth in early consideration for the marine environment to foster personal relationships with the ocean!

We are so grateful to the GLC school for their support of marine-based education and inspiring young students to be the change they wish to SEA!

Interested in a presentation for your school?

Visit [CleanOceanAction.org/Education-Programs/Presentations](http://CleanOceanAction.org/Education-Programs/Presentations) or email [Education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Education@CleanOceanAction.org).



Education Ambassador, Kelly, presents Be the Sea Change to GLC School students

## Extra, Extra! The 2023 Corporate Beach Sweeps Report is Now Available

As highlighted in October's Newsletter, 2023's Corporate Beach Sweeps program was a major success thanks to the 18 corporations who participated resulting in an inspiring day of teamwork and environmental stewardship. A few sneak previews from the report:

- the most unusual item found was a dreidel,
- 79.5% of debris picked up was made from plastics,
- Plastic Pieces were the number one item picked up, tallying in at 5,132 pieces; Bottle Caps & Lids were a close second with 4,527 pieces removed.

Take a deeper dive into the data collected, discover the partners and their accomplishments, and more in the Corporate Beach Sweeps Report! Scan the QR code to access the 2023 Report



## Preteen Activist Gets "Plastic Bag Ban" Passed in Colorado!

Making waves and taking names, 12-year-old activist Madhvi Chittoor launched and led the campaign to ban plastic bags and the use of plastic foam in Colorado. She has been a passionate environmental advocate since she was 5 years old and coined the advocacy nickname "No Styrofoam Ninja." Madhvi has proven that persistence pays off with public outreach, testifying at the state capitol, and conducting signature campaigns. The new Colorado law went into effect at the beginning of 2024. Madhvi's leadership and the increasing public commitment to reducing plastic pollution are reminders—from the small to tall—that we can all make a difference.



Environmental activist, Madhvi Chittoor  
Photo Credit: CBS News

## COA Hosts Meet & Greets in South Jersey

To wrap up 2023, COA's South Jersey Coordinator, Toni Groet, led two Meet and Greets in Atlantic County and Cape May County communities. At these meetings, locals learned more about the history of Clean Ocean Action, our educational and volunteer programs, current citizen action campaigns, such as offshore wind, and ways to make a difference in their communities. The 28 Atlantic County and 15 Cape May County residents also had the opportunity to voice concerns about pollution issues they see in their communities such as plastic waste mitigation, construction site cleanliness, fertilizer laws and flooding in coastal communities. For anyone looking to help protect the ocean, there are opportunities with COA! Thanks to all who came to the Ventnor and Sea Isle City events!

Our next south Jersey COA Meet and Greet is on March 26th at the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum in the Hunting Shanty building. More details coming soon at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)

Seeking opportunities to get involved in south Jersey? Contact Toni Groet at [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org).



Attendees learn about COA campaigns

# COA CREW NEWS

## Welcome Ocean Campaign Manager, Annie Licata!

Annie received her bachelor's degree with a double major in Magazine Journalism and Writing and Rhetoric from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She started her professional career writing about music at *Rolling Stone* magazine. Annie comes to COA with a background in managing and directing entertainment operations and productions for leaders in the industry, as well as a variety of freelancing experiences in program development and research.

Annie recently relocated to her home state of New Jersey after six years living in Topanga, California. She brings with her a deep love of the natural world and an unflinching dedication to the wild beauty of the ocean. In her new role, she will help organize campaigns to defend the ocean.



Annie Licata  
Ocean Campaign Manager

