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- Updates: LI Ocean Outfall and BEACH Act Funding
- COA takes on Rutgers University to stop seismic testing
- Wreck Pond Receives Cleaner Bill of Health

June 2014 Highlights

- TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Sign the petition against seismic testing off Barnegat Bay this summer.
 2. Carry out trash from whatever you bring in to eat and drink at beaches and parks you visit.
 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



Like COA on Facebook, Follow on Blogspot and Twitter

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

6/12/14 COA Seaside Seminar, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Location TBA

6/14/14 Sandy Hook Light House 250th Anniversary, Sandy Hook, 11:00am - 4:00pm

6/29/14 Rally Celebration for Barnegat Bay, Trader's Cove Park, Brick, 12:00pm - 7:00pm

7/18/14 Ideal Beach Celebration, Ideal Beach, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

TRIBUTES



In Honor Of

The wedding of Liz Fordi and Adam Rechnitz
Leo Gasienica
Tyler Thompson

In Memory Of

John F. Edgeworth
Samuel Karinja
The Greatest Dog That Ever Was

Wreck Pond Receives Cleaner Bill of Health



Photo: Pictometry International

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced it will lift precautionary beach closings at the beaches around Wreck Pond's ocean outfall pipe. The pond drains a 12 square-mile watershed that includes Wall, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights and Sea Girt. When it rains, surface runoff collects pollution and flows into storm drains, down the streams that enter the pond then exit through an outfall pipe in the ocean.

The state is required to sample public bathing beaches weekly between Memorial Day and Labor Day to protect swimmers from waterborne bacteria. When a sample exceeds the bacteria standard [104 colonies/100mL], an advisory is posted and the site is resampled daily. After two days over the limit, the beach is closed until values are lower than the standard.

Since 2002, the beaches surrounding Wreck Pond had been closed after 0.1 inches of rainfall within 24 hours to prevent people from coming into contact with elevated bacteria levels from stormwater flushing into the ocean. Bacteria levels have historically been elevated at York, Brown, Terrace and Beacon Street beaches.

From 2005 to the present, local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofits, including COA and concerned citizens have partnered to identify and fix the sources of pollution to eliminate beach closures. Most recently, sewers were found leaking into the pond.

The DEP agreed to continue monitoring at the beaches during wet weather, to ensure that bacterial indicator levels are not exceeding the standards or putting the public at risk. Information on the Wreck Pond Project can be found online at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/wreckpond/index.htm>

The state unveiled a new beach monitoring website to help the public stay informed about water quality conditions in real-time.

For more about New Jersey beaches, advisories and closings visit: https://njbeaches.org/closings_advisories/

Ocean Advocates Blast Back at Rutgers University

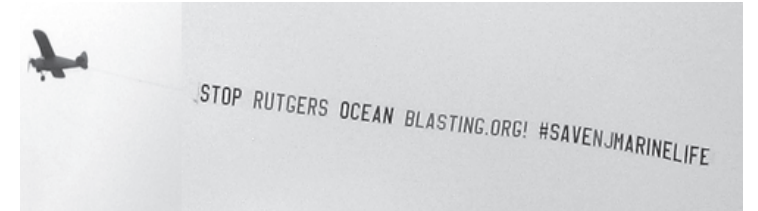


Photo: Aerial Sign North

With the piercing booms of recorded seismic testing blasting from speakers, ocean advocates blasted back on Friday before Memorial Day weekend at The Fisherman's Dock Cooperative in Point Pleasant Beach.

Announcing a campaign to stop the Rutgers University-led seismic study scheduled for this summer off Barnegat Bay, representatives from commercial and recreational fishing alliances, charter boats and environmental groups came together in a multi-tiered effort. Actions include a formal letter delivered to Rutgers President Robert Barchi, a renewed push for the online petition drive and phone calls to Rutgers and elected officials.

Banner planes flew* Sunday and Monday of the holiday weekend to encourage folks to get involved online. StopRutgersOceanBlasting.org pointed to the petition; and the hashtag #SaveNJMarineLife promoted the cause across social-media platforms.

Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ-06) expressed his discontent for the proposed seismic activity. "An environmentally sound coast is critical. I am disappointed in my alma matter; and remain concerned with any activity that could threaten the environment and our local economy, especially the fishing community."

Facing only their second summer since Superstorm Sandy, commercial fishermen are relying on this summer to be the first economically viable one since the storm.

Jimmy Lovgren, spokesman for the Fisherman's Dock Cooperative and third-generation commercial fisherman expressed his concerns. "Superstorm Sandy destroyed the commercial fishing industry's internal and external infrastructure. This testing is not a dinner bell for fish and could cause as much damage as Sandy did to fisheries."

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is disappointed, "that Rutgers is willing to jeopardize the environment for fish, dolphins, whales and turtles, at a time of year that will damage both the fishing industry and Rutgers' reputation, is mind-boggling," said Tom Fote, Legislative Operations Manager.

Ray Bogan, Esq., representing Recreational Fishing Alliance, Marine Trades Association and United Boatmen said, "Science yes, but not at this cost. Don't kick an industry when its down."

Britta Wenzel, Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay, reflected on the devastation the study will cause her family and community still rebuilding from the storm. "This is the wrong project, in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

The clock is ticking. Stay tuned to cleanoceanaction.org for updates and keep sharing the petition. Let's get to 20,000 signatures by June 15!

*Carbon credits were purchased to offset flights' carbon footprint.

EDUCATION

Catie Tobin, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Education Ambassadors

Do you love the ocean? Are you a teacher or are you comfortable doing presentations in front of groups? If so, then the Clean Ocean Action Education Ambassador is the program for you! Ambassadors will assist Clean Ocean Action's education program by conducting presentations about ocean pollution issues to schools and community groups. Ambassadors will be compensated for their time. For more information, please contact Catie Tobin at 732-872-0111 or via the email above.

Make Your Town a Blue Star!



Photo:
Washington Post

Is your town Sustainable Jersey registered or a certified municipality? Are you interested in improving water quality in your town? If you answered yes to both questions, then Clean Ocean Action's Blue Star program is for you!

The municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey Initiative with Clean Ocean Action's focus on water quality protection. The goal is to inspire coastal towns to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification and reap the benefits, while simultaneously supporting and promoting watershed-wide water quality improvements.

Whether your town is currently certified or just getting started, the Blue Star Program can be part of your Sustainable Jersey goal. Through this Blue Star initiative, not only will your community become a leader in environmental stewardship, you will help ensure the beauty and vitality of a clean coastal ecosystem and economy.

The program will officially launch early this summer. For more information about getting involved please contact Catie Tobin. To learn about the Sustainable Jersey Program, please visit: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

Calling All Businesses: Help COA Celebrate 30 years!

As supporters of a clean ocean and to commemorate COA's 30 years of dedication to coastal advocacy, you are invited to be a part of our EcoGuide. The Guide is an ecofriendly manual filled with puzzles and games, as well as idea for fun and sustainable activities to enjoy all summer and beyond.

Your support is vital to the Jersey Shore and by contributing an ad, your business will be given visibility across both Monmouth County and Ocean County. Call the Clean Ocean Action office at 732-872-0111 for details or email your print-ready ad no later than **Friday, June 20, 2014** to development@cleanoceanaction.org.

Fun at the Jersey Shore... Naturally



CLEAN OCEAN ACTION
P.O. Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07718 • www.cleanoceanaction.org
Seasonal Publication 2014

SCIENCE AND ADVOCACY

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Update: Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant Ocean Outfall

The State of New York held three public hearings on Long Island in May to gather information and input from scientists, consultants, local government representatives, environmental groups, and the public on the proposed construction of an ocean outfall pipe at the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant (photo, right). In addition to relocating the outfall from the Western Bays to the ocean, the current proposal includes conversion of two smaller treatment plants in the area to pumping stations, which would also send their wastewater to Bay Park, totaling up to 70 million gallons of wastewater per day discharging to the ocean.

Clean Ocean Action attended the first hearing on May 12, during which several invited speakers from academia, industry, and nonprofit sectors voiced strong support for moving forward with the ocean outfall proposal. The public was not invited to make oral comments at this hearing.

Also notably absent from the dialogue, was any discussion of potential environmental impacts from outfall relocation, both on the bay and ocean ecosystems; and what this change may mean for concerns related to future increased development on Long Island. COA delivered oral comments during the third hearing held on May 28, which focused on raising these questions to the government panel and urging potential environmental and development related impacts be fully evaluated and presented to the public before Governor Cuomo reaches an ultimate decision on the outfall pipe.

The Governor's office will host a fourth meeting in early June (date and location TBA) to announce their recommendations for improvement of wastewater and septic system issues on the island.

For more information on these meetings and water quality concerns on Long Island, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/97030.html>.



Photo: NassauCountyNy.gov

Update: BEACH Act Funding

As mentioned in the April newsletter, the Obama Administration has again attempted to zero out 2015 fiscal year funding for the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act programs.

Following the submission of support letters for BEACH Act funding from members of the U.S. Congress, COA and partner groups followed suit with a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB), echoing the concerns and sentiments expressed in the House and Senate letters. The organizations highlighted the broad support for sustained program funding from Congress, states, and tribal groups, as well as the need for continued funding in light of the work that still needs to be done to improve coastal water quality across the country.

To add your voice to the collective, call or write your senators and congressmen to ask them to continue their support of BEACH Act funds in the 2015 Fiscal Year budget!

Capitol Hill Switchboard 202-224-3121.

SUPPORTING COA'S WORK

Diana Reinhardt Paradis, Development@cleanoceanaction.org

Supporter Spotlight: West Deptford Middle School Wheelabrator Club



Thank you to the West Deptford Middle School's Wheelabrator Club for your environmental efforts throughout the 2013-2014 school year! The Club, spent this school year learning about preventing ocean pollution.

The Club held a "Ban the Bag" contest, encouraging competition between different homerooms to collect the most plastic bags in a week – resulting in the collection of a staggering 50,456 total bags from students and school staff. In March, they taught four 3rd and 4th grade classes about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch and made jump ropes from recycled plastic bags.

COA Education Fellow Catie Tobin gave a presentation about Beach Sweeps to the Club, with club members participating in Beach Sweeps at Wildwood Crest. In addition to their in-class activities, the Wheelabrator Club also held a fundraiser at their local Chick-fil-A restaurant, where they raised over \$220. Students in the Club also participated in the 20th Annual Wheelabrator Environmental Symposium in Florida, where they presented a lecture about their work and won the "Most Successful Outreach Project to an Unknown Problem" award!

COA commends these outstanding environmental leaders and looks forward to working with the West Deptford Middle School's Wheelabrator Club. Next year they plan to expand their studies to include the effects of microplastics in our oceans. Thanks to the students for all their hard work to bring awareness to ocean pollution issues!

Save The Date! Thursday, June 12, 2014

Are you an ocean lover? Want to volunteer with COA but feel unsure about how best to communicate the ways in which the organization advocates for the ocean? Are you overwhelmed trying to keep up with the "seismic testing" and LNG issues?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, join us and get a crash course in COA and ocean advocacy! We will be kicking off our summer **Seaside Seminar** series (say that three times fast!) with an evening that will transform you into a COA Champion in-the-know.

Thursday, June 12 6:00pm - 7:30pm, light refreshments will be served
Location TBC

College and high school students are welcome! We'll relaunch the C.O.A.S.T. program - a great way for young adults to gain valuable community service hours this summer!

Stay tuned for an email from COA confirming the location or email Jennifer Cubias at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org to RSVP today!