# **UPDATED** 2017 **Annual Report**



### Since 1985, over 6,288,576 items removed by 123,242 volunteers!



### A day of service, a lifetime of evidence and the spirit to make the ocean cleaner!

itter is harmful to animals that mistake it for food, and/or become entangled; it also negatively affects tourism and the coastal economy. In response, for over 30 years, thousands of dedicated volunteers — the tall and small - gather in the Spring and in the Fall for Beach Sweeps. As a result, beaches and waterways are safer for wildlife and people.

The goal of Clean Ocean Action's (COA) Beach Sweeps is to reduce and eliminate sources of litter by engaging people in volunteer efforts to clean beaches in New Jersey. During the bi-annual event, volunteers pick up and remove debris, and record and calculate data about the debris. The data collected provides a legacy of information that can be used to identify sources of pollution, monitor trends, and discover and promote solutions.

This year results of Clean Ocean Action's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beach Sweeps are 7,416



volunteers removed 373,686 pieces of debris from over 60 sites in 53 municipalities and parks along the Atlantic Ocean coast, bayshores, inland rivers, lakes, and streams. Since 1985, over 6,288,576 items have been removed by 123,242 volunteers!

As in recent years, the most frequently collected items were plastic. A record 84.46% of the items collected were plastic

or foam plastic.

The "Dirty Dozen" resembles previous years, with persistent and harmful plastic dominating the top twelve list. Eight of the



From Midway Beach Tinker Bell says, "Clap your hands if you want a clean ocean!"

Dirty Dozen are single use, disposable plastic items, accounting for 66% of the total items collected. This demonstrates

What's Inside:

- Ocean Wavemakers: Beach Captains, Scouts, Groups, Schools, Civic Groups
- 2017 Results, Dirty Dozen
- Roster of the Ridiculous
- Watershed Mindfulness
- 2017 Flotsam And Jetsam The Story in the Numbers
- Balloons Are Dangerous to Marine Life

their prevalence and our growing disposable society. The total amount of Dirty Dozen is 74% of all trash removed, a record amount.

The "Roster of the Ridiculous" continues to illustrate that one can find just about everything on the beaches.

The greatest success of the Beach Sweeps are the take-home lessons: citizens taking responsibility for the environment, making a difference, teamwork, unity, and commitment. The Beach Sweeps are a day of service in the Spring and Fall that provide a lifetime of data to help make a difference for the ocean.

2017 SITES

Allenhurst/Loch Arbour, Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Atlantic Highlands, Avalon, Avon-by-the-Sea, Bay Head Belmar, Berkeley, Bradley Beach, Brick, Brigantine, Cape May, Deal Galloway, Gateway National Park at Sandy Hook, Glen Ridge/ Montclair, Highlands, Ideal Beach, Island Beach State Park, Keansburg, Keyport, Lavallette, Leonardo, Long Beach Island, Long Branch, Longport, Manasquan, Margate, Middlesex County Park System, Middletown, Monmouth Beach, Monmouth County Park System, Ocean City, Ocean Grove Ortley Beach, Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Beach, Red Bank, Rumson, Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Sea Isle City, Seaside Heights, Seaside Park, Spring Lake, Stone Harbor, Toms River, Union Beach, Ventnor, Villas, Wildwood. Wildwood Crest

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OCEAN WAVEMAKERS

The success of the Beach Sweeps is rooted in the Ocean Wavemakers who contribute time, effort, resources, donations, and funds.

**2017 BEACH CAPTAINS (90):** Franz Adler, Ryan Baine, Jesse Beutell, Debra Bowler, Keri Branin, Denise Bruschi, Ralph Carloni, Ryan Carr, Bill Cleary, Cookie Cleary, Ann Commarato, Lisa Cordova, Kira Dabby, Crystal DeCaro, Michelle Denny, Fran Donnelly, Peter Donnelly, Jake Donnelly, Jordan Donzelli, Bret Dunlap, Anthony Edge, Kathy Esposito, Margot Fernicola, Julie Finnell, Alexander Fradkin, Jocelyn Gandhi, Ava Gandhi, Kathleen Gasienica, Leo Gasienica, Eric Gehring, Kristin Gould, Marianne Grant, Kyle Gronostajski, Kate Grossarth, Emily Hackett, Eric Hanan, Cory Herrala, Jennifer Hess, Andrew Kaplan, Tony Kono, Beth Kwart, Justin Lamb, Mary Lenahan, Bill Macomber, Marine Academy of Science and Technology Student Coordinators Sierra Byrne and Katie Costello, Cheryl Marinelli, Jeff Martin, Kari Martin, Carol McCallum, Harvey McKenzie, Kathleen Meyer, Charlotte Moyer, Jessica Mumford, Derek Noah, Katiria Ortiz, Michael Palmisano, Peterson Family, Lynn Poinier, Keith Rella, Derek Riddle, Michael Rohal, Alexandra Ruffler, Kay C. Sagal, Sammarco Family, Leah Savia, Matt Schmidt, Allen Schultz, Jim Sharkey, Nicole Sherry, Doreen Silakowski, Greta Siwiec, Lisa Stickle, Amy Strawder, Graceanne Taylor, Bob Thibault, Gene Viereck, Tina Marie Walling, JJ Walsh, Kay Warren, Elizabeth Warren, Britta Wenzel, Amanda Wheeler, Gretchen Whitman, John Wnek, Cash Woldseth, Mark Woldseth, Paula Woods, Ashley Woodward, Megan Young, Anita Zalom

#### **SCOUT GROUPS (56):**

**BOY**: # 1, 17, 18, 21, 40, 47, 53, 58, 72, 76, 92, 126, 219, 223, 241, 343, 364, 442, 555, 749, 60343, 60832 **Cub**: # 21, 85, 101, 141, 152, 158, 242, 358

**GIRL**: # 45, 96, 134, 186, 245, 269, 287, 324, 343, 351, 352, 440, 485, 502, 550, 716, 720, 741, 758, 839, 20204, 60177, 60359, 60461, 60608, 60710, 64036, 65825, 81386, 81608, 81709, 83807 **Brownie**: # 327 **Daisy:** # 244

Sea Bright Fall



BUSINESSES (53): Amazon, Apple Sachs Bar, Atlantic City Electric, Aveda, Baine Contracting, Bank of America, BJ's Club 172, Bloomberg, Bohler Engineering, Caesar's Entertainment, CDM Smith, Circle K, Coca Cola Marmora, Comcast, Compass Group, CPC Behavioral Healthcare, Daveysky Surfboards, East Coast Diving Center, First Bank of Sea Isle City, Gilbane, Gloria Nilson & Co. Real Estate, IFM, JPMorgan Chase, Karuna Charities New York, Kohl's, Law office of Bonnie R. Paterson Esq., Levi's, Matrix, Meridian Health,

Merrill Lynch, Metlife, Monmouth Ocean Regional Board of Realtors, Mott MacDonald Engineers, MTF, Napeys Bar, Nike, NJ American Water, NJ Natural Gas, Progressive, Ray

Catena Motor Corp., RICOH USA Inc.,
ShopRite, Starbucks Wildwood, Symrise,
T&M Engineering, Target, U.S. Bank, United
Teletech Financial, Vanguard, Wakefern,
Wayside Technology, Wells Fargo,
Wildflowers Farm of Princeton Junction
Corporation, Ricoh USA, Secret Garden Spa,
Servepro at Eatontown, ShopRite, Spotify,
T&M Associates, TD Bank, UBS, United
Teletech Financial, Viridian Energy, Verizon,
Wakefern Food Corporation, Wayside
Technology, Workwave



Comcast Cares at the Long Branch Beach Sweep

#### SWEEPS SNAPSHOTS



Cape May Fall Beach Sweep



Volunteers with a buoy at Ideal Beach Spring Sweep



Volunteer at Fall Maple Cove Sweep with large foam plastic piece



Tinton Falls School at Avon-by-the-Sea Fall Beach Sweep

**ORGANIZATIONS (57):** 4H Teen Council, ALP, Asbury Park Rotary, Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, Clean Water Association,

Cliffwood Beach Neighborhood Watch, Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club, East Brunswick Youth Council, Edison Metro Leos/Lions Club, Excelsio Medical (Neptune), Garden Club of LBI, Girls Friendly Society, Good Turn Daily Facebook Group, Hamlette the Mini Pig, Ideal Beach Community Association, Indivisible Bayshore, Infuse Environmental, Jack & Jill of America Essex Hudson Chapter, Jersey Cares, Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club, Monmouth County Realtors, Environmental Science Jump Start Academy, NJ Sea Grant Consortium, NJ Windsurfing and Watersports Association, No DAPL Water Protectors, OCC Asian Culture Club, Ocean City Beach Buggy Association, Ocean County 4H Noah's Ark Pet Pals, Ocean Mental Health, Ocean Wreck Divers, Phlock of South Jersey, Project Green, Reclaim the Bay, Red Bank Humanists, Red Bank Rotary, Regular Republican Club of Lavallette, Rotary Club of Greater Long Branch, S.E.A.S, Save Barnegat Bay, Script & Cue, Sea Shepherds, Shrewsbury Power Squadron, Sierra Club, South Amboy YMCA, South Jersey Coastal Fly Anglers, Squigley Boys Class of '89 and '92, Stone Harbor Property Owners Association, Surfrider Beach Club, Surfrider Foundation South Jersey Chapter, Team Emma for NJ Senate, The Hub Kings, Tiger Bomb, UNFI, UNICEF, Wayside Tech Group

FAITH-BASED GROUPS (13): Faith Community Church, Holy Cross Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Immaculate Conception Church, Lincroft Presbyterian Church, Our Lady of the Mount Church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sacred Heart, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, St. Denis Church, St. Mary's Church, St. Michael's Youth Group, Trinity Presbyterian Church East Brunswick

PRE/ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (48): Antrim Elementary; Assumption Regional Catholic; Atlantic Highlands Elementary; Beers Street Elementary; Ben Franklin Elementary; Bradley Beach Elementary School Environmental Club; Brielle Elementary; Central Regional Middle; Colts Neck Elementary; Deane Porter Elementary; Fairview; Forrestdale School: Environmental Club; GAMP; Goetz Middle School Builders Club; Green Brook Middle School; Global Scholars Greater Brunswick Charter School; Hazlet Middle Road; Henry Hudson; Highlands Elementary; Holy Cross School Rumson; Holy Innocents School; Howell Middle; Jordan Road School Science Club; JumpStart Academy; Lavalette Elementary; Little Silver Point Road; Manchester Middle; Manasquan Elementary School Environmental Club; Matawan Aberdeen Middle; Newark Academy; Oak Knoll Elementary; Oakwood; Ocean Avenue Elementary; Park Middle; Princeton Day School; Ravine Drive Elementary; Red Bank Charter; Rumson Country Day; South Amboy Middle School Junior Honor Society; St. Clements, St. Joseph's; Terrill Middle; The Rose Garden; Thorne Middle; Tinton Falls Middle; Union Beach Memorial; Warren E Sooy Elementary; Wildwood Middle School ROOTS; Winston School of Short Hills; Wolf Hill Elementary



These little piggies went to the Ortley Beach Sweep

HIGH SCHOOLS (60): Absegami; Allentown: FFA, Leo Club Biotechnology; Bound Brook; Brick Memorial: Key

Club; Central Regional High School Ocean Club; Colts Neck High School: Environmental Club, ROTC; De Paul Catholic; East Brunswick High School SAVE Club; Edison; Freehold Biotech; Freehold High School: 4H Club; Freehold Township: Octagon Club; Governor Livingston; High Tech; Hightstown; Holmdel; Hopatcong; Howell: Wrestling Team; Jackson Liberty: Interact Club; Long Branch: ROTC; Lower Cape May Regional; Madison; Manalapan: Environmental Club, SAVE Club; Manasquan High School Environmental Club; Marlboro Memorial; MAST; Matawan Regional: Environmental Club, National Honor Society; MATES; Middletown South; Monmouth Regional High School Environmental Club; Monsignor Donovan Catholic; Neptune High School; Ocean City High School Key Club; Ocean Township; Old Bridge: German American Exchange; Paramus Catholic; Pennsburg; Pennsbury High School Environmental Club; Point Pleasant Beach; Point Pleasant Borough; Rancocas Valley High School Environmental Club; Raritan High School Environmental Club; Red Bank Regional: Environmental Club; Red Bank Catholic; Roselle Park; Rumson Fair Haven: Surf Team; Rutgers Prep; Saint Rose; Shore Regional; Sayreville War Memorial High School Environmental Club; St. Rose; Toms River East; Toms River North; Trenton; Watchung Hills Regional; West Caldwell Tech; Whitehall Twp; Wildwood Catholic; Beijing Haidian International School; Verona High School Marine Biology Club; Wildwood High School ROOTS

COLLEGES (20): Beta Beta Beta Beta Rational Honors Society; Brookdale Community College: Biology Club, Environmental Club, Women's Volleyball; Centenary University; College of NJ Alpha Phi Omega; Fairleigh Dickinson University; Georgian Court University; Kean University: Beta Beta Beta, Environmental Club, Field Hockey Team; Kutztown University Marine Science Club; Middlesex County College: Earth Science Club; Monmouth University: Women's Lacrosse; Montclair State University; Ocean County College; Princeton; Raritan Valley Community College; Rowan University; Rutgers University: Alpha Phi Omega, Engineering Governing Council, Phi Chi Theta, Students for Environmental Awareness; Seton Hall University; Stevens Institute of Technology: Alpha Phi Omega, Chi Phi, Kappa Sigma, SAVE Club, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; Stockton University: Marine Science Club; Mu Sigma Upsilon; University of Pennsylvania; William Paterson University Lambda Tau Omega

CIVIC GROUPS & PARKS (18): Aberdeen Township Council, Atlantic Highlands Green Team, Avalon Public Works, Committee to Elect Lamb, Congressman Tom MacArthur Staff, Keyport Clean Communities, Keyport Environmental Commission, Manasquan Environmental Commission, Manto Environmental Commission, McGuire Air Force Base, Monmouth County Clean Communities, Red Bank Borough Council, Seaside Park Mayor & Council, Seaside Park Police Department, Seaside Park Public Works, Spring Lake Environmental Commission, Stone Harbor Police Department, US Coast Guard D-195

**SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS (1):** Dylan Nifanset Bar Mitzvah Project



**NOTES FOR USING BEACH SWEEPS DATA:** The Annual *Beach Sweeps* Report can be used to study and understand marine debris. When analyzing annually or over time for trends, it is important to note that the amount of debris collected depends on a variety of factors, such as weather, tides, participants, and accuracy.



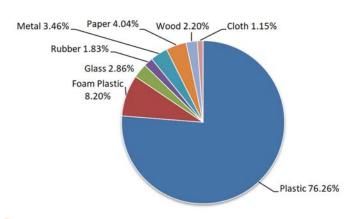
**LOCAL DATA, GLOBAL NETWORK:** Every October, COA submits the Fall *Beach Sweeps* data to Ocean Conservancy in Washington D.C., to be included in their International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Report.

					% of
	Items	Spring	Fall	Total	Total
	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	23,247	16,980	40,227	10.76%
	Store/Shopping Bags	5,786	3,266	9,052	2.42%
	Trash Bags	1,825	1,037	2,862	0.77%
	Other Bags	3,510	2,468	5,978	1.60%
	Beverages/Soda Bottles	7,146	4,968	12,114	3.24%
	Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	307	109	416	0.11%
	Other Bottles	1,188	935	2,123	0.57%
	Buckets/Crates/Bins	404	257	661	0.18%
	Cap/Lids	24,949	25,932	50,881	13.62%
	Cap/Rings	2,873	2,377	5,250	1.40%
	Cigarette Filters	14,181	14,827	29,008	7.76%
	Lighters	757	398	1,155	0.31%
	Cigarette Packaging	1,045	825	1,870	0.50%
	Cigar Tips	3,800	3,372	7,172	1.92%
	Bait Bags/Containers	265	196	461	0.12%
	Line	530	453	983	0.26%
	Lures, Floats	256	216	472	0.13%
Ĕ	Fising Nets - Small	185	74	259	0.07%
PLASTIC	Fishing Nets - Large	66	19	85	0.02%
=	Cups	2,227	1,448	3,675	0.98%
_	Diapers	83	67	150	0.04%
	Forks, Knives, Spoons	2,536	1,581	4,117	1.10%
	Light Sticks	149	120	269	0.07%
	Plastic Pieces	31,474	24,727	56,201	15.04%
	Pens	881	514	1,395	0.37%
	Ribbon/Tape (no balloons)	1,267	1,040	2,307	0.62%
	Rope	1,029	529	1,558	0.42%
	6-Pack Holders	173	100	273	0.07%
	Sheeting Tarps	154	81	235	0.06%
	Shotgun Shells	528	359	887	0.24%
	Strapping Bands	570	326	896	0.24%
	Straws/Stirrers	12,962	18,205	31,167	8.34%
	Syringes	228	167	395	0.11%
	Tampon Applicators	2,528	1,552	4,080	1.09%
	Toys	847	1,002	1,849	0.49%
	Vegtable Sacks	78	64	142	0.04%
	Other Plastics	2,294	2,046	4,340	1.16%
	Building Materials	507	307	814	0.22%
$\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle \cong}{}$	Buoys/Floats	209	79	288	0.08%
S	Fast Food Containers	576	352	928	0.25%
Ž	Foam Cups	2,529	926	3,455	0.92%
A F	Packaging Materials	1,080	586	1,666	0.45%
A	Foam Pieces	15,411	5,706	21,117	5.65%
FOAM PLASTIC	Foam Plates	508	246	754	0.20%
	Other Foam Plastic	923	679	1,602	0.43%

2017 Beach Sweeps	Spring	Fall	Totals
Total Items Collected	204,943	168,743	373,686
Number of Volunteers	3,770	3,646	7,416

					% of
	Items	Spring	Fall	Total	Total
	Beverage Bottles	2,340	1,509	3,849	1.03%
10	Other Bottles/Jars	290	155	445	0.12%
20	Lights: Bulbs	60	41	101	0.03%
GLASS	Lights: Fluorescent Tubes	5	19	24	0.019
<u> ۵</u>	Pieces	3,289	2,485	5,774	1.559
	Other Glass	346	164	510	0.149
	Balloons - Mylar	835	561	1,396	0.379
	Mylar With String/Ribbon	484	439	923	0.259
	Balloons - Rubber	631	485	1,116	0.309
œ	Rubber With String/Ribbon	312	392	704	0.199
RUBBER	Condoms	243	118	361	0.109
9	Rubber Bands	294	312	606	0.169
₹	Gloves	365	257	622	0.179
	Tires: Part	135	69	204	0.059
	Tires: Whole	42	13	55	0.019
	Other Rubber	400	461	861	0.239
	Appliances	26	10	36	0.019
	Batteries: Car	17	2	19	0.019
	Batteries: Other	33	42	75	0.029
	Bottles Caps	2,121	2,230	4,351	1.169
	Aerosol Cans	58	65	123	0.039
	Beverages Cans	2,182	1,715	3,897	1.049
	Other Cans	104	112	216	0.069
	Car Parts	76	45	121	0.039
┪	Crab/Fish Traps	15	16	31	0.019
METAL	55 Gallon Drums: Old	17	8	25	0.019
Σ	55 Gallon Drums: New	4	14	18	0.009
	Fishing: Hooks	42	30	72	0.029
	Fishing: Sinkers	46	35	81	0.029
	Foil	451	488	939	0.259
	Nails	377	206	583	0.169
	Pieces	436	296	732	0.20%
	Pull/Pop Tabs	96	138	234	0.069
	Wire	316	210	526	0.149
	Other Metal	424	419	843	0.239
	Bags	469	485	954	0.269
	Cardboard	771	750	1,521	0.419
~	Cartons/Boxes	246	181	427	0.119
PAPER	Cups	904	649	1,553	0.429
Ā	Newspaper/Magazines	480	315	795	0.219
_	Paper Pieces	3,596	4,098	7,694	2.069
	Plates	167	207	374	0.109
	Other Paper	757	1,020	1,777	0.489
	Crab/Lobster Traps	27	24	51	0.019
	Crates/Baskets	39	40	79	0.029
WOOD	Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks	212	238	450	0.129
ŏ	Lumber Pieces	3,284	2,665	5,949	1.599
3	Pallets	113	157	270	0.079
-					
	Other Wood	629	807	1,436	0.389
	Blankets/Sheets/Towels	267	146	413	0.119
Ė	Clothing: Specify	404	417	821	0.229
СГОТН	Shoes/Sandals	332	257	589	0.169
Ü	String (No Balloon)	660	567	1,227	0.339
	Other Cloth	603	641	1,244	0.339

### PERCENT BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY/DEBRIS TYPE



Breakdov	Breakdown by Category/Debris Ty					
2017 Totals	Spring	Fall	Total	% of Total		
Plastic	152,328	132,637	284,965	76.26%		
Foam Plastic	21,743	8,881	30,624	8.20%		
Glass	6,330	4,373	10,703	2.86%		
Rubber	3,741	3,107	6,848	1.83%		
Metal	6,841	6,081	12,922	3.46%		
Paper	7,390	7,705	15,095	4.04%		
Wood	4,304	3,931	8,235	2.20%		
Cloth	2,266	2,028	4,294	1.15%		
<b>Pieces of Debris</b>	204,943	168,743	373,686			
Volunteers	3,770	3,646	7,416			

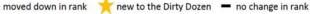
### DIRTY DOZEN

The most commonly collected pieces of debris

2017			Change		2016		2015		2014
Rank	Debris Items	2017	in Rank	2016	Rank	2015	Rank	2014	Rank
1	Plastic Pieces	56,201	-	28,885	1	42,793	1	40,880	1
2	Plastic Caps/Lids	50,881	_	23,643	2	34,426	2	29,804	3
3	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	40,227	_	20,979	3	33,405	3	27,381	4
4	Straws/Stirrers	31,167	1	12,073	6	19,633	5	18,372	5
5	Cigarette Filters	29,008	1	20,219	4	28,041	4	30,241	2
6	Foam Pieces	21,117	1	14,513	5	12,841	6	13,050	6
7	Plastic Beverage/Soda Bottles	12,114	_	8,204	7	12,100	7	11,775	8
8	Plastic Store/Shopping Bags	9,052	_	5,564	8	10,808	8	8,037	10
9	Paper Pieces	7,694	1	4,416	10	7,114	11	5,560	12
10	Cigar Tips	7,172	1	3,581	11	4,846	*	6,366	11
11	Other Plastic Bags	5,978	*	3,141	*	4,717	*	4,779	*
12	Lumber Pieces	5,949	1	5,274	9	9,426	9	9,235	9
	Total Dirty Dozen	276,560		150,492		220,150		205,480	
	Percent of Total Debris	74%		69%		68%		67%	
	Number of Volunteers	7,416		3,990		6,658		6,926	







\*not ranked for indicated year

### A selection of the oddest items collected

Doctor's Orders: blood vials, dentures, knee brace, medical marijuana container, Pepto Bismol, pill bottles, surgical mask, Visine

All Dressed Up: acrylic nail, bag of costume jewelry, belly ring, fake mustache, mascara brush, mermaid purse, nail clippers, perfume sample, shampoo pump

Fun in the Sun: 8 of spades card, Barbie shoe, baseball, baseball bat, boomerang, bubble blower, hula hoop, kayak seat, LEGO, Nerf dart, shuttlecock, tennis racket

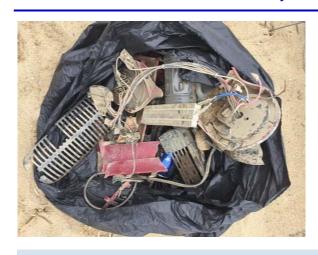
Handy and Sandy: ant trap, insulation, lawn mower, mouse trap, paint brush, phone adapter, saw blade, strobe light, Swiffer sweeper, tape measure, two fire extinguishers

What's Cooking: cheese grater, full milk jug, jar of honey, Keurig coffee maker, measuring cup, oregano jar, pizza box, raw chicken, spatula handle, zucchini

Stranger Things: birdcage, Chinese newspaper, clown nose, hula girl doll, human tooth in a box, inflatable mattress, plastic Vishnu statue, rubber donut, scarecrow, tarot card

\*Note: items are identified by volunteers

### 2017 FLOTSAM AND JETSAM — THE STORY IN THE NUMBERS



#### Since 1985 Cumulative Numbers:

- 6,288,576 pieces of trash removed
- 123,242 volunteers donated 739,452 hours

#### 2017 Debris Record Highlights:

- For the first time, 84.45% was plastic including foam
- Dirty Dozen accounts for over 74% of all debris
- Total Balloons (Mylar and Rubber) were the highest in 7 years and nearly a record at 4,139

#### **Dirty Dozen Highlights:**

- 66% are single use plastic items
- 28% are just Plastic and Foam Pieces

#### Comparative numbers: 2017 data results to 2015

Note: Rain events in 2016 kept turn-out low and data cards too wet to track data

Substantial increases (greater than 20%):							
Item:	Increased by:	2017	2015				
*Plastic Pieces	+31.33%	56,201 up from	42,793				
*Plastic Caps and Lids	+47.80%	50,881 up from 34,426					
*Plastic Straws/Stirrers	+58.75%	31,167 up from 19,633					
*Foam Pieces	+64.45%	21,117 up from 12,841					
		*In the	Dirty Dozen				
Indicators of raw sewage:							
Plastic Tampon Applicators	+18.88%	4,080 up from 3,432					
Condoms	+14.97%	361 up from 314					
Substantial decreases (greater than 20%):							
Diapers	-42.53%	150 down from	261				
Lumber pieces	-36.89%	5,949 down from 9,426					
Foam building materials	-53.27%	814 down from	1,742				



Plastic pieces are up 24%

#### Seasonal Changes Between Spring and Fall Data:

- Overall more trash is collected in spring than fall due in part to more volunteers
- Number of foam cups are approximately 2.5 times higher in spring than fall

-63.65%

-22.29%

Number of Straws/Stirrer are 29% higher in fall than spring – reflecting high summer use

#### Balloons Are Dangerous to Marine Life

Other foam plastic

Glass beverage bottles

What goes up must come down. In that way, balloons released into the environment are delayed littering. Whether released by accident or on purpose, balloons will fall onto the land or into the sea. In the ocean they can cause harm to marine life like sea turtles who mistake them for food such as jellyfish. They can also be inadvertently eaten by big-gulp eaters, such as whales. Digestive systems of marine life are not able to process rubber or plastic and it causes painful, harmful, and even lethal impacts. The strings also cause harm or death by entanglement which results in strangulation or impairment of their ability to fly, swim, or escape predators.

1,602 down from 4,407

3,849 down from 4,953

The cumulative total of balloons collected during Beach Sweeps is 69,688. Disturbingly, despite recent efforts to ban balloon releases and public education, balloons in 2017 increased sharply to 4,139. It's nearly tied with the highest number ever recorded, which was 4,159 seven years ago in 2011.

Some people release balloons in honor of a special occasion or in memory of loved ones. COA works to educate people about the harm that balloons can cause and urges a different choice. There are many other harmless and beautiful ways to celebrate and honor loved ones. For example, release butterflies; plant native trees, flowering shrubs, or a flower garden; donate a bee hive or milking cow to support a subsistence family; or perform other actions of sustainability and kindness.

The best choice: skip the balloon and create a lasting lega-sea.

#### SOURCES OF LITTER: NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Precipitation that falls and travels over surfaces, called stormwater, picks up and moves pollution as it flows into the nearest storm drain which empties into a nearby waterway and, ultimately, into the ocean. This precipitation-pollution mix, or nonpoint source pollution, contains litter, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, oil and grease, bacteria, human and animal waste, and other pollutants. Nonpoint source pollution can be harmful and negatively affects the beauty and health of waterways for both people and wildlife.

#### How Can I Be Watershed Mindful?

Watershed mindfulness is an understanding that we are all (the small and the tall) connected to and responsible for the health of our vast network of waterways that ultimately leads to the ocean. It is this awareness that binds us to the health of our ecosystem.

Citizens can be watershed mindful by knowing their water address, a new concept from COA where everyone knows specifically how water travels from their rooftops and streets to the ocean. Knowing the watershed and reducing sources of pollution to it are vital to quality of life. Importantly, people can help prevent pollution by stopping nonpoint sources, especially polluted runoff.

One way to avoid harmful impacts to waterways is to avoid the use of single-use plastics which often end up as litter, such as straws. In just 2017 at the Beach Sweeps, volunteers picked up 31,167 straws. Let's work together to get this number lower by taking the pledge to skip the straw. COA is working with EPA's initiative, Trash Free Waters (TFW), to reduce marine debris. Members of COA staff are leading the microplastics and straws working groups. For information contact <a href="mailto:outreach@cleanoceanaction.org">outreach@cleanoceanaction.org</a>.



#### **NEED SOME TIPS TO HELP STOP POLLUTION?**

Clean Ocean Action's Tip Card series promotes reducing "people pollution."

Go to www.CleanOceanAction.org for tips about:

Anglers, Boaters, Cat Owners, Cleaning, Dog Owners, Drivers,
Fertilizer, Kids, Kitchen, Lawn & Garden, Smokers, and more.

About the Beach Sweeps
In 1985, Clean Ocean Action gathered
75 volunteers at Sandy Hook for the first
Beach Sweeps, with plans to rid the beaches of unsightly and harmful debris.

Thirty-two years later, the *Beach Sweeps* program has expanded into locations along NJ's coastline, as well as to inland rivers, lakes, bayshores, and streams. Each year, thousands of citizens participate, representing diverse groups and businesses. The program illustrates the power of citizen action.

The Beach Sweeps are held in the Spring and Fall, when the beaches are not being cleaned by local municipalities, resulting in a true snapshot of pollution. The goal is to have naturally clean beaches where "clean-ups"



are history.

One of the most
unique aspects is that
every Beach Sweeper
becomes a "citizen
scientist" as they
record each piece of

debris collected on our *Beach Sweeps* data cards. The data collection and related research help us: <u>discover</u> solutions to keep beaches clean and healthy; <u>create</u> federal, state, and local programs to reduce litter; and protect the public and the environment.



How One Person can Make a Difference:
Tom Stein read <u>Sea Change</u> by Joel Harper, to his young daughter and had an idea. The book is a charming story of a child who chose to make a difference by leading her community in a campaign to remove litter making beaches cleaner for marine life and people. Inspired, Stein partnered with COA and created "Be the Sea Change", an education program for local schools to encourage even more children to get involved. To find out more, please contact Clean Ocean Action.



### **2017 STATEWIDE SPONSORS**





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### 2017 COUNTY SPONSORS











### 2017 SITE SPONSORS

Atlantic City Electric, Baine Contracting, Brookdale Community College, Jenkinsons Aquarium, Jersey Central Power & Light, Kohl's Cares, NuStar, Royal Bank of Canada, ServPro of Long Branch and Eatontown, Wells Fargo Advisors

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

#### The following have contributed important resources:

Atlantic Bagel, Bloomberg LP, Gateway National Recreation Area Sandy Hook Unit, Island Beach State Park, Marine Academy of Science & Technology, Middlesex County Parks System, Monmouth County Parks System, NJ Clean Communities Council, Ocean Conservancy, Rotary Club Interact, and Water Witch Coffee

Clean Ocean Action is a coalition of 115 organizations dedicated to improve and protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts. For information about Beach Sweeps and sponsorship opportunities, reducing pollution, and for past Annual Beach Sweep Reports, please contact:



18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2 Highlands, NJ 07732 CleanOceanAction.org info@CleanOceanAction.org (732) 872-0111



### **CORPORATE CORNER**

#### **CORPORATE IMPACT**

The Beach Sweeps is made possible thanks to the generous support from sponsors. The funds donated go directly back

to the statewide event and help to create new sites, provide outreach to increased numbers of volunteers, and educate local communities on pollution. The following are testimonies from our Statewide partners.



"Through partnerships with organizations like

Clean Ocean Action, we're helping improve our environment," said Bob Doherty, New Jersey, Bank of America. "In addition to the company's financial support over the years, our employees are always excited to volunteer at Beach Sweeps to help clean up our beaches and waterways and protect wildlife."

"Wakefern Food Corp/ShopRite is pleased with our 15+ year partnership with Clean Ocean Action (COA). As an environmentally and community oriented business, ShopRite respects when an organization can bring about effective change by involving more and more community member volunteers each year," stated Suzanne Forbes, Corporate Communications, Environmental Affairs Administrator, Wakefern Food Corporation.

COA is most appreciative of the support provided by the Beach Sweeps sponsors and in-kind donors. If you would like to make an even larger difference through providing important resources, please contact us!

#### **CORPORATE BEACH SWEEPS**

Want to make a difference with your corporation this summer? Clean Ocean Action's Corporate Beach Sweep program invites corporate partners of all sizes to enjoy a day at the beach while fostering growth and teamwork among staff members. Through hands-on beach cleanups and team building activities, employees will see the impact tthey are making to improve the marine environment which ultimately affects public health, quality of life, and the economy. In 2017, 445 volunteers from 14 corporations removed a remarkable 33,161 pieces of debris! Applications are available at CleanOceanAction.org.