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LABEL

April 2019

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

## Mark Your Calendars

Beach Sweeps  
April 13

Over 60 NJ Locations

Aveda Earth Month  
April 2019

Oyster Farmers Screening  
May 2, 7pm  
Rumson Presbyterian Church



Run the Hook  
May 12  
Guardian Park, Sandy Hook, NJ

Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest  
June 8

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

**Volunteers needed to help Mother Earth and Ocean!**  
Contact Kari Martin at [KMartin@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:KMartin@CleanOceanAction.org) for details.

**Saturday, April 20, 11am-2pm**  
Borough of Highlands Earth Day Event, Snug Harbor Community Center  
**Saturday, April 20, 1pm-4pm**  
Jenkinson's Aquarium Earth Day Celebration, Point Pleasant Beach  
**Saturday, 4/27/19 and/or Sunday, 4/28/19**  
(choice of day), time TBD  
Liberty Science Center Conservation Weekend, Jersey City



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Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

## Tributes

### In Memory of:

Peter Cauterucci  
Dolores & Samuel Karinja  
Patricia Padula  
Mary Ragan Perry  
Carol Anne Ross  
Karen Shatto  
Gregory S. Weber  
Paul Wilburscheid

### In Honor of:

Clean Ocean Action's 35th Birthday  
Dennis' Happy Birthday  
Jake's Happy Birthday  
Stopping seismic blasting

CHEERS  
to 35 YEARS  
of Ocean Advocacy!



Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; [Policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Policy@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Save the Bay -- Opposition to the Williams/NESE Pipeline Grows!



Left to Right: Bill Schultz (Raritan Riverkeeper), Nicholas Simon (Staff Assistant for Congressman Pallone), Meredith DeMarco (NY/NJ Baykeeper Chief Operating Officer), Peter Blair (Clean Ocean Action Policy Attorney), Kin Gee (CHARGE President), Paul Smith (Borough of Union Beach Mayor), Cindy Zipf (Clean Ocean Action Executive Director), Fred Tagliarini (Township of Aberdeen Mayor), Anthony Cavallo (Borough of Union Beach Councilman), Jay Cosgrove (Owner of Bahrs Landing and Marina and Highlands Business Partnership President), a local clammer, Paul Ritter (Baymen's Protective Association President), and a group of local Bayshore fishermen and clammers

**Bayshore Rises Up! SAVE THE BAY!** An all-star cast of elected officials, clammers, fishermen, local business leaders and environmentalists spoke out against a proposed offshore gas pipeline at a press conference rally on March 26. The message was loud and clear "Don't stir up the muck and poison the bay." Everyone also called upon the NJDEP to provide more opportunity to be heard. The Bayshore community was largely unaware of the project. Congressman Pallone also sent a letter to NJDEP urging for a hearing on the Bayshore project and for the public comment period be extended. For a detailed press review and video, visit COA's blog.

**Status of permit:** The NJ Department of Environmental Protection held a public hearing in East Brunswick (not near the Bayshore) on March 18, on the Williams/NESE Pipeline. Of the 350 people attending 86% of testimony opposed the project and called on the DEP to deny the permits. Public comments must be submitted to the DEP by April 17. Water permits are also pending by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); that comment period closed on March 15.

**Calls for more Public Review:** Recently, Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a resolution that calls on the DEP to extend the public comment period and conduct a public hearing on the Bayshore to allow more communities to comment on the project. Several Bayshore towns have also passed similar resolutions and/or opposition to the project.

**No Need for NESE:** 350.org recently published the study, "False Demand: A Case Against the Williams Pipeline" which documents the lack of need for the harmful bay polluting project. The study shows that natural gas demand is projected to remain the same or decrease in New York, and that any slight increase could be met with more cost effective environmentally friendly alternatives such as energy efficiency. Moreover, as required by law, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to issue the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Project, which documents the overarching need. They are usually rubber-stamped, however, the application was submitted over two years ago.

**To learn more about the Williams/NESE Pipeline project and submit comments, visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).**  
**To express opposition to the project, sign the petition linked on homepage.**



**See inside to learn how New Jersey is opposing offshore drilling and seismic blasting and ways to get involved!**



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Oyster Farmers Screening on May 2!

Join us for an educational evening on Thursday, May 2, 7pm at Rumson Presbyterian Church for a screening of the award winning documentary film, The Oyster Farmers.

The screening is being presented by WATERSPIRIT and co-hosted by Clean Ocean Action, GreenFaith, Rally for the Navesink, and the Rumson Presbyterian Church. Attendees will enjoy local beer, wine, fresh oysters and finger food in addition to the screening. Following the conclusion of the film, there will be a short Q&A session with local faith and environmental leaders, and those involved in the local seafood economy.

Proceeds from the event will go toward furthering the mission of WATERSPIRIT and the Rally for the Navesink Alliance's efforts to restore the water quality in the Navesink River. Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) to learn more and purchase tickets.



Clean Ocean Action is partnering with Aveda this April for Earth Month!

Stay tuned throughout April for ways to get involved and support COA's clean water initiatives at your local salon!

## Run the Hook

Join COA at the annual Run the Hook 5K/10K, a race to keep our oceans wild and pollution free! The race will be held on the scenic shores of Sandy Hook on Sunday, May 12 at 10:00am. A portion of the proceeds from the race will go to COA's vital water quality programs.

Spend Mother's Day with loved ones at a race, protecting Mother Ocean! Registration is almost sold out so hurry and register now at [runthehooknj.com](http://runthehooknj.com).



Save the date for Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest on June 8!

## Yet Another Whale Succumbs to Plastic Debris

This time, it was a young male Cuvier's beaked whale that washed up dead on a beach in Compostela Valley in the Philippines. The D'Bone Collector Museum performed a necropsy and found that its stomach was loaded with 88 lbs of plastic. Marine mammal fatalities from ingesting plastic debris and associated infections and malnutrition are increasingly reported in various parts of the world.

Marine debris, especially plastic debris pose a grave threat to the survival of these species. COA has been at the forefront of marine debris pollution through our biannual Beach Sweeps. More details on COA's Beach Sweeps and plastic reduction strategy can be found at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).



# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Clean Ocean Action at the Coastal Lakes Summit

Clean Ocean Action was invited by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute to participate in the Coastal Lakes Summit on March 15. The summit brought together representatives of communities working to address the environmental problems being faced by six coastal lakes in Monmouth County (Deal Lake, Lake Como, Sunset Lake, Sylvan Lake, Takanessee Lake, and Wesley Lake). COA's Alison McCarthy, Coastal Watershed Protection Coordinator, and Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist, attended the day-long summit. COA has an ongoing collaboration with Deal Lake Commission and Deal Lake Watershed Alliance for microbial source track down.



Jason Adolf, Ph.D., Marine Science Professor at Monmouth University presenting at the Coastal Lakes Summit

The focus of the summit was to engage and promote citizen science partnership through a new Coastal Lakes Observing Network (CLONet) under UCI to monitor the conditions of these six lakes and share the data to an online database. CLONet will help provide water quality and nutrient monitoring kits, and facilitate citizen science monitoring of these lakes. More than 100 representatives including NJDEP, Lake Commissions, and nonprofit groups attended the summit.

## Fish Kill in the Shrewsbury River



On the morning of March 16, COA reported thousands of dead and dying menhaden in the Oceanport Creek, a tributary of the Shrewsbury River. After alerting the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Oceanport WaterWatch (OWW), investigations were conducted by NJ Fish and Wildlife Service, NJDEP, and OWW. Additional calls from citizens expanded the search throughout the two river areas. NJDEP collected water samples and confirmed that the dissolved oxygen was very low at <2.6 mg/L. According to the NJDEP, this

incident was caused by predators (bluefish and striped bass) chasing fish into shallow areas, which uses up the oxygen resulting in suffocation. However, the amount of dissolved oxygen in an estuary depends on many factors and includes natural phenomena such as temperature, salinity, wind direction, and tide conditions. COA continues to monitor this situation.

While predator-led fish kills in the Two Rivers are naturally occurring, nutrient inputs from human activities into sensitive estuarine environments such as the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers should be avoided at all costs by avoiding fertilizers, cleaning up after pets, and maintaining septic systems. If you see something of environmental concern, call WARNDP, take photos, confirm location, and request an incident number.

Marine debris may seem most visible at the Jersey Shore, but it is crucial to remember that marine debris often starts out as inland litter that is carried to our waterways through stormwater runoff.

COA's Delaware Sweeps initiative brings the Beach Sweeps model to locations in need along the Delaware River to address these land-based sources of litter. The latest Delaware Sweep was held on March 23 in partnership with Friends for the Abbott Marshlands, Mercer County Parks Commission, and Americorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program.



# POLICY

Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; [Policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Policy@CleanOceanAction.org)

## S.O.S – Rally to Save Our Seas and Stop Offshore Drilling and Blasting

Led by the Cape May Chamber of Commerce (CMCC), Clean Ocean Action co-hosted a rally against the Trump Administration's plans to blast the ocean with seismic testing and expand offshore drilling. The rally drew over 265 friends of the ocean including federal, state and local officials, and high school students.



Executive Director Cindy Zipf speaking to rally attendees about the dangers of seismic testing and offshore oil and gas exploration



Pictured from left to right: Vicky Clark of Cape May Chamber of Commerce, Sandra Meola of New Jersey Audubon, Congressman Van Drew

The colorful rally included over one hundred hand-crafted signs defending the ocean and compelling the Trump Administration to stop fossil fuel energy development in the ocean. Waves of thanks to Vicki Clark and her team at the CCMC for their great work putting the rally together and the City of Cape May for hosting the event.



## Blast the Blasters on World Water Day

On March 22, 2019, Executive Director Cindy Zipf joined US Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, in Asbury Park for a press conference to oppose offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean. Accompanied by other environmental organizations and business and fishery representatives, Congressman Pallone introduced plans to announce pending legislation that prohibits President Trump and his administration from altering the offshore oil and gas five year plan.

Cindy Zipf and other speakers spoke about the importance of waterways in honor of World Water Day. Specifically, Zipf called for the protection of the Atlantic Ocean and the importance the water source holds for local communities, economies, and marine life.

For World Water Day, COA encouraged citizens to post the names of the companies seeking the ocean blasting permits and calls on citizens to write to them to urge them to withdrawal of their application. There has been little sunlight on who these companies are. **For online links to each company's comment pages, go to Clean Ocean Action website.**



Executive Director Cindy Zipf speaking to the dangers of offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean alongside Congressman Pallone and several other elected officials on World Water Day. From left to right Assemblywoman Joanne Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, Amy Goldsmith of Clean Water Action, Mr. Pallone, Sustainable Business Alliance, Jeff Tittle of Sierra Club, NJ Chapter, Mayor John Moor of Asbury Park, and Sylvia Gioffi