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Ryan Struck Photography

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Citizens and activists rally in the Franklin High School cafeteria prior to the hearing.

DEP Hears Testimony and Solicits Comments on proposed NESE Pipeline

On November 5, 2018 hundreds of concerned citizens and activists flooded the Franklin High School Auditorium to express their concern to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) over Williams/Transco's proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, or NESE.

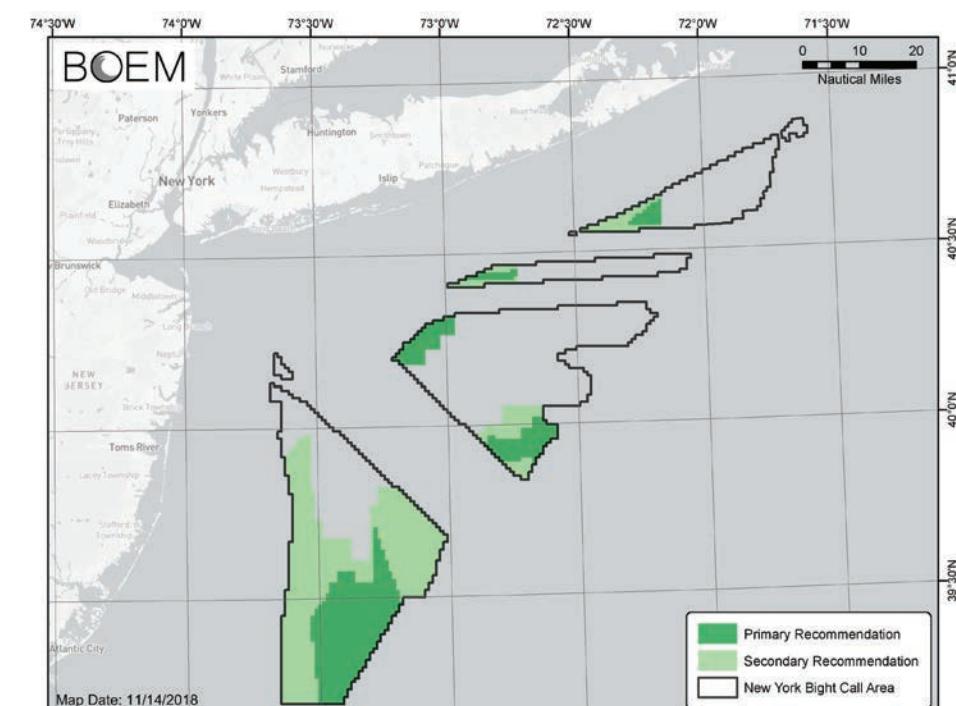
The 37.1 mile new natural gas pipeline project would cut through New Jersey and the Raritan Bay to allegedly provide climate altering natural gas to New York City. The DEP is currently evaluating the Freshwater Wetland Individual Permit application.

COA gave oral testimony and submitted written comments demanding the DEP deny the crucial permit. COA argued that the project is unlawful under the recently enacted STOP Act, which seeks to protect the Jersey Shore from the harmful impacts of offshore oil and gas development. Moreover, the project is not in the public interest, a legal requirement necessary for the approval of the permit. The project would allow the permanent destruction of crucial wetlands, and the dredging of the Raritan Bay, all to provide New York with climate altering fossil fuels.

BOEM Releases Draft Wind Energy Areas for the NY-NJ Bight

After reviewing comments and feedback on the initial call areas, BOEM has released the draft wind energy areas, which are areas where developers may seek a federal lease for development of offshore wind energy facilities. These areas, once finalized will be subject to environmental review and eventually offered for sale to offshore wind developers.

While the draft areas released by BOEM are significantly smaller than the initial call areas, the draft would still see large areas open for wind energy development. The map outlines the draft areas. In dark green are the primary recommendations which, according to the agency, present the least amount of conflict with a potential offshore wind development. The light green are the secondary recommendations which are slightly more conflicted areas, where BOEM will seek additional information.



The Draft Wind Energy Areas published by BOEM

Clean Ocean Action will attend the NY-NJ Bight Task Force Meeting and will continue to monitor all offshore wind development to ensure that any development does not jeopardize our coastal and marine ecosystem.

Mark Your Calendars!

ASBURY PARK BEERFEST 2019
JANUARY 26 & 27 PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

CONVENTION HALL CHEERS TO BEERS

JAN. 26 12PM - 4PM AND 6PM - 10PM
TWO SESSIONS

JAN. 27 12PM - 4PM
ONE SESSION

MORE INFORMATION
APBoardwalk.com // AsburyParkBeerfest.com

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ASBURY PARK BOARDWALK **THE RAY** **OFFSHORE BOARDWALK FOUNDATION** **THE RAY FOUNDATION**



Tributes

In Memory of:

Florence Betta
Douglass J. Denman
Ronald Emmons
Delores and Samuel Karinja
Thomas E. Lynch, Jr.
Carlotta Niles
Carol Anne Ross
Donald Rossbach
Doris Allison Terrett
Andrew "Drew" Thompson

In Honor of:

Merry Christmas to Emily Chaimowitz
Congragulations on the wedding of Kate & Vic Hughes
Merry Christmas Colin Loch
Theresa Shemanski who loves the ocean
Happy 50th Anniversary to Leigh & Arthur Sorensen
Congratulations to Pete vanOosterhout's newborn baby

Support COA through the Tribute program or shop AmazonSmile and choose COA!



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Teams Up with Patagonia & Glide Surf Co. for a Screening of 'Never Town'

On October 25th, Clean Ocean Action had the privilege of working with Patagonia, Wayne Lynch (legendary surfer/shaper from Australia) and Glide Surf Co. to host a screening of the surf conservation film, Never Town. The film, shot along the Southern Ocean coasts of Australia, highlights the pristine wilderness of these areas and details the environmental threats the areas are currently facing. Local surfers, environmentalists and ocean advocates flooded to the House of Independents to enjoy drinks, chat with folks from Patagonia and COA, buy tickets for Patagonia's raffle benefiting COA, watch the film and partake in a Q&A session with Wayne Lynch and COA staff. One notable point raised during the Q&A was the observation of parallels between industrialization threats in Australia and the industrialization threats looming off the coasts of the United States. Overall, the night was a resounding success where COA staff was able to engage with concerned citizens about pressing threats and the organization raised \$415 thanks to Patagonia! We are grateful to have been a part of such a special event.



On November 25th, Monmouth County residents gathered for the annual Navesink Challenge 15K and 5K race, hosted by the Jersey Shore Running Club. Clean Ocean Action was honored to be chosen as a beneficiary of the race and was thrilled to receive \$3,200 as a result! The race was a huge success; it sold out all 1,100 slots prior to the event and the day of the race saw spectacular fall weather adding to the beauty of the race course. COA is grateful to coordinators of the race, the Jersey Shore Running Club, the volunteers who helped at the water station and all those who signed up for the race and donated to COA!

New Jersey Voters Show Up to Polls in Historic Numbers



On November 6, voters flooded polling stations around the state at the highest rate of turnout for a midterm election in 20 years. Estimates show that between 500,000 and 1,000,000 more votes were cast this midterm election than in the previous midterm back in 2014. Statewide, 53.7 percent of registered voters exercised this fundamental right of voting this past election. From everyone at Clean Ocean Action, thank you for voting.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Poo-llution Sniffing Dogs Back by Poop-ular Demand

This month's Rally for the Navesink meeting was for the dogs! On November 29th, Karen Reynolds, President of Environmental Canine Services (ECS), joined us at the final meeting of the year for an informative meet and greet with the amazing poo-llution sniffing dogs, Remi and Kai.

ECS trains canines to detect the presence of human sewage contamination in water, which may be caused by leaking sewer lines, failing septic systems, and illicit pipe connections. The dog handlers use the canine responses to conduct immediate source tracking, so that sources of human fecal pollution can be rapidly identified and ultimately fixed. During the last week of November, two teams from ECS, consisting of dog and handler, investigated several hotspots of fecal pollution throughout the Navesink River watershed. COA collaborated with municipal officials and employees, NJDEP, and Monmouth County Health Department to support ECS' investigation throughout the watershed.



ECS on the hunt for Poo-llution in Rumson, NJ

Delaware River Sweeps Continue to Uearth Plastics



Some volunteers collect, sort and bag debris while designated volunteers tally each item on COA's data card.

Another successful Sweep at Taylor Wildlife Preserve in Cinnaminson, NJ took place on November 17 with the help of a small but mighty group of volunteers from the Environmental Club at Rowan College in Burlington County. Over a few hours, six volunteers collected 871 items of debris along the shoreline of the Delaware River. Consistent with past Delaware River Sweeps, nearly 93% of the debris collected was plastic. Foam pieces were the most common item, with 255 pieces found. Other commonly



Over 35% of the debris removed from Taylor Wildlife Preserve was foam.

found items included plastic bottle caps and lids, food and candy wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, and foam cups. While picking up debris, the volunteers also helped to identify brand names and the most unusual items, which included a child's Croc shoe, Nerf darts, a wooden chair, and a buoy light.

Clean Ocean Action and the Plastics Agenda

COA had a busy November working on the plastics agenda! COA's citizen report on microplastics monitoring and assessment is underway. COA's Staff Scientist Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD; Coastal Watershed Protection Coordinator, Alison McCarthy; and Microplastics Researcher, Catie Tobin attended the final Plastic Free Waters Partnership meeting of 2018, which was held at USEPA in New York. COA chairs the straws and microplastics workgroups in addition to being a member of the steering committee. The status and actions of the workgroups for 2018 were summarized and goals were established for 2019.

COA's staff also underwent a Bloomberg MySQL training last month. Bloomberg collaborated with COA to create an online cloud-based platform that will upload huge data sets from COA's bi-annual Beach Sweeps with the goal of providing an easy and effective way to upload, store and interpret Beach Sweeps data. The end result will help shape better debris management policies and programs.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org



Clean Ocean Action teamed up with these three ocean advocates at Jenkinson's Aquarium's Mystical Mermaids event. These mermaids read stories, posed for pictures and even swam in the tanks with the Aquarium's fishy friends! Many thanks to Jenkinson's and the mermaids for inviting us to share a message of a clean ocean to the Aquarium's guests.

Healthy Ocean = Healthy You



It was an honor to be included in the recent WeForum Conference at Bell Works where COA shared its "Healthy Ocean = Healthy You" message with hundreds of health and wellness advocates, including wee Wally Thompson.



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