Summer 2020

NAMEPA Newsletter

Special Summer Edition

We hope you enjoy this special edition of NAMEPA's summer newsletter brought to you by our 2020 Interns! Who are they you ask...continue reading to meet our interns!

Hello! My name is Thomas Harris and I am a junior at Syracuse University, majoring in illustration. I've been doing illustration work for NAMEPA for the last few years and I'm excited to be back for the 2020 summer! This summer, I am working as an illustrator at NAMEPA. I create animations, newsletter illustrations, social media posts, and any other art NAMEPA needs! I have been inspired countless times by nature and the environment surrounding me when creating my art. Because of this, I want to do my part to preserve, protect, and aid in the fight against climate change through my artistic contributions. One way that I support the environment every day is by constantly asking myself, "Do I really need this?", and rethinking adding new waste into the environment through the consumption of new products.

Hello! My name is Natalie O'Hern. I'm a rising junior at Wellesley College majoring in Chemistry. This summer, I'm working remotely from my parents' house in Rochester, NY as part of NAMEPA's social media team. As a lifelong resident of the Great Lakes Region, I learned from a young age the importance of protecting water quality and aquatic life -- both freshwater and marine. In my free time, I like to visit Lake Ontario and to hike. My favorite sustainability habit that I practice daily is composting food scraps!

Hi! My name is Avalon Swanson! I am a History and Japanese double major at Wellesley College, and this summer I am working from my home in Orange County, CA. Because I've lived by the Pacific my whole life, I want to protect our beautiful oceans and the creatures that live in them. One thing I do to help the environment every day is limiting my water usage when I'm brushing my teeth or taking showers. This summer I'm a Social Media Intern at NAMEPA, and I hope you'll check out NAMEPA's Instagram and Facebook and see all the cool content Natalie and I are creating!

North American Marine Environment Protection Association

NAMEPA

Hi! My name is Rachael Previti! I am a World Arts and Cultures major at UCLA. I am a graphic design and digital media intern here at NAMEPA. This summer, I am working from home in Fairfield, CT. As an art enthusiast, I believe that art is an incredible way to convey social change, specifically environmental change. I love to hike around the trails in the tristate area and have been spending my weekends helping at a farm in upstate New York this summer. One way I try to support the enviornment every day is by buying locally produced food, making my own meals, and taking them out with me in reusable containers!

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Wegman. I am a member of the Wellesley College Class of 2020. I recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences. This summer, I am back home in Massachusetts working as a medical scribe and as a NAMEPA Marine Science Education Intern. It has been a privilege to grow up and live near beaches and salt marshes. My educational pursuits in Biological Sciences stemmed from my appreciation for the beauty and biodiversity in the marine ecosystems in my hometown. Our planet, from our oceans to our salt marshes, is one Brobdingnagian living organism who deserves our love and protection. I compost my food to create organic soil in order to play my part in caring for the Earth! Check out the valuable resources about marine science that NAMEPA has developed, including the webinars that Lacey Berg, my fellow Marine Science Education intern, and I have each designed! I hope that you all remain safe and healthy during this unprecedented time.

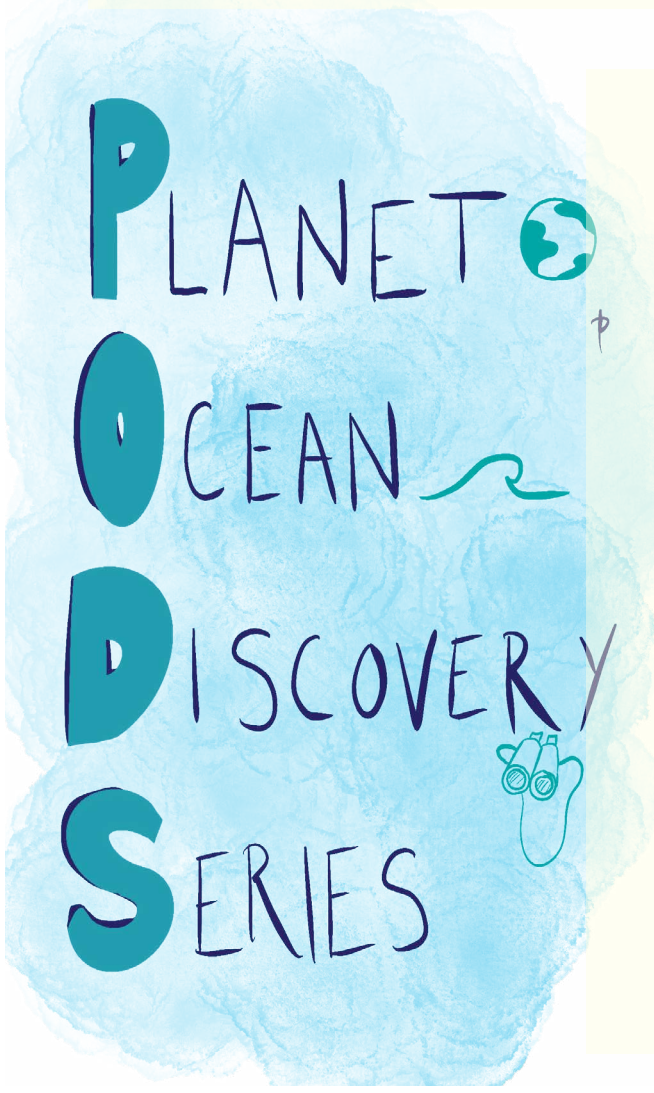
Hi! My name is Michael Garbarino. I'm a junior at McGill University, majoring in Environment. This is my first summer with NAMEPA, and I've been enjoying my time with the organization greatly. I spend most of my time reading, hiking, and swimming. My favorite daily sustainability practice is composting! I love to write, and as an intern, I create blog posts, fact sheets, and other informational pieces. Check out my writing in the "News" section of the NAMEPA website!

Hello! My name is Lacey Berg. I am a senior at Wellesely College majoring in Environmental Studies. I am currently working on a professional development webinar about ocean acidifcation with NAMEPA. I've been interested in marine science since I was a kid, spending all of my summers playing on the beach and exploring tide pools. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in research ecology with a focus on making science and nature accessible to everyone. Outside of the classroom, I love traveling, playing ultimate frisbee, and spending time outside with my friends.

NAMEPA Education Updates

Adopt-a-Ship Program

NAMEPA's Adopt-a-Ship program kicked off with intriguing questions and exciting correspondence between the STI Maestro and Mrs. Mendez's 3rd grade class out of Texas! Students were curious if the water was smooth or if there were rough waves and how the crew got its food. The STI Maestro also explained how to read satellite data, weather charts, as well as how much a ship cost! We are excited to keep moving forward connecting students and seafarers and look forward to our next batch of ship adoptions!



Choose your POD!

As a part of NAMEPA's commitment to Save Our Seas and to educate the public, we have developed learning PODS: Planet and Ocean Discovery Series! These PODS have been designed as a completely virtual, downloadable, environmentally based learning series to reach a broader audience and bring the exciting world of marine science into your classroom. Each POD will provide the information and tools necessary to deliever a complete educational unit. The information can be used as a single lesson or collectively with the supplemental material to enhance your current curriculum. We are creating short, informative videos, fact sheets, and fun activities such as word searches to accompany the educational material in the PODS.

PODS are an interdisciplinary, suitable for all grade levels and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. This comprehensive digital resource will be available for FREE on NAMEPA's website. Each of the PODS will dive deep into specialized subject matter importance to and related to the health of our ocean and planet. NAMEPA's initial PODS, Coastal Habitats, will teach students how our rivers and streams feed into the ocean, how wetlands and estuaries protect our coastlines and how mangroves swamps might be our biggest warrior in climate change.

Take a (Virtual) Dive with NAMEPA this summer with our Ocean Literacy Summer Camp!

With many restrictions in place for summer camps, NAMEPA has developed a 7-week camp session for students in grades 3-5. Each session's theme is based on one of the 7 Ocean Literacy principles with guided curriculum, detailed explanations, and supplemental resources. All are aligned to Next Generation Science Standard and most of the experiments can be executed using basic household items.

NAMEPA Industry Updates

Liberian Registry, NAMEPA, and ProSea Launch Updated, Online, Computer-based Environmental Awareness Training Program

There is no time like the present to advance skills in protecting the marine environment!
NAMEPA, along with the Liberian Registry and Pro-Sea have updated our ground-breaking environmental computer-based training program
for seafarers and shoreside staff. This readily available online version is designed to engage the user and increase participation in protecting the marine environment. The course provides a comprehensive overview of the complex and diverse marine environment, explaining how it is impacted by shipboard waste, discharge and spills, and by shipping generally. It also covers marine ecology, environmental compliance plans and management systems, sustainable shipping, and the role of the human element in pollution prevention. The course is based on the IMO model course 1.38 and meets the requirements of STCW Chapter VI. For more information and to register please visit https://namepa.net/marine-environmental-awareness-training/

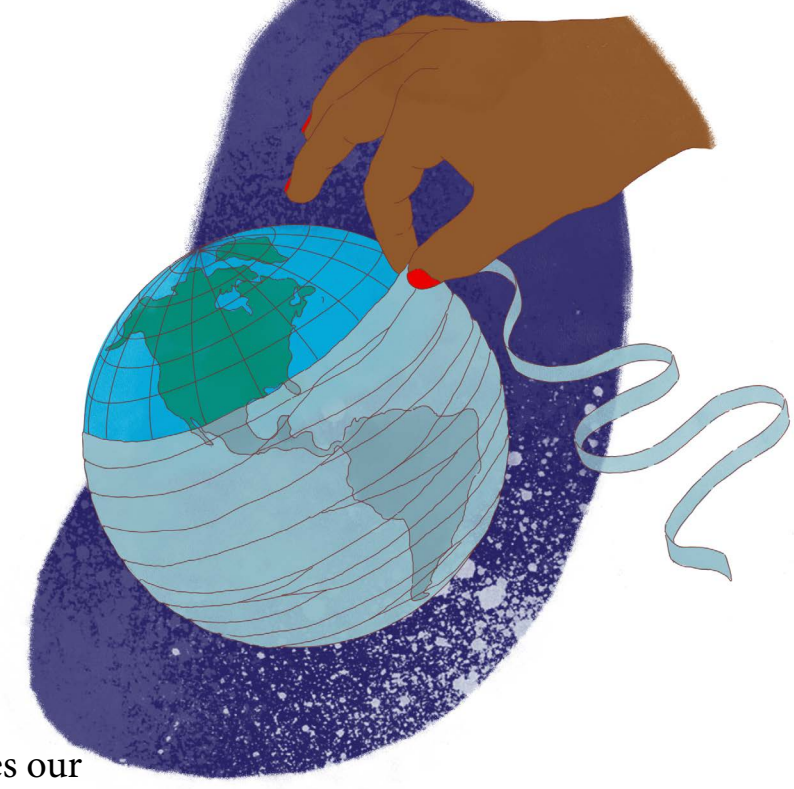
NAMEPA Launches First Holistic CSR/ESG Program designed for the Maritime Industry. Cargill Qualifies for the First "Maritime Sustainability Passport"

On World Oceans Day, June 8th, NAMEPA launched the first known comprehensive CSR/ESG (Corporate Social Responsibility/ Environment, Social, Governance) program designed expressly for the maritime industry, with its corresponding "Maritime Sustainability Passport" (MSP) awarded to companies, organizations, and individuals who meet the requirements of the platform. The program encompasses the three pillars of CSR/ESG: corporate governance, environment, and the human element. "The maritime industry is rapidly recognizing the importance of demonstrating its commitment to sustainability" stated NAMEPA Chairman Joe Hughes of the American Club. "NAMEPA identified the need to provide the industry with a standard guideline of expectations relating to a company's effort in sustainability,". "Cargill has made sustainable shipping a priority and an integral part of our business strategy," remarked Jan Dieleman, Business Leader for Cargill Ocean Transportation. "We are working with partners and other industry leaders to accelerate progress across the maritime sector, with a particular focus on decarbonization." The program contains a set of standards plus a toolkit for achieving them. Completion of the program results in the issuance of NAMEPA's Maritime Sustainability Passport, which is renewed annually. For more information and to register please visit [https://name-pa.net/csr-esg/.](https://name-pa.net/csr-esg/)

"Cargill has made sustainable shipping a priority and an integral part of our business strategy,"

-Jan Dieleman *Business Leader for Cargill Ocean Transportation*

Plastic Free July



Plastic Free July is upon us! Plastic Free July is an entire month designated to encourage eliminating single-use plastic from your daily life. This would usually entail bringing your own bags to the grocery store, using a refillable cup for drinks, and having a metal straw instead of a plastic one. However, the past few months have shown an increase in single-use plastics, as personal containers, bags, etc. become a risk to use amid COVID-19 concerns. This, along with a surge in disposable personal protective equipment and take-out food orders, has created a major setback in the movement towards zero waste goals. This makes our Plastic Free July a little different this year, yet more important than ever We've been looking to The Plastic Soup Foundation as our guide for how to engage in Plastic Free July during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1 **Buy reusable, washable gloves and face masks**
Gloves and face masks have become the ultimate culprit of plastic waste during the pandemic. Countless plastic gloves can be seen, disposed of on the side of the road and masks float down empty streets. In order to remain environmentally friendly and safe from COVID, invest in a pair of reusable gloves and a reusable mask! Look out for those that are machine-washer safe so you can keep them sanitary as you reuse them. Support your town and buy locally or find some here.

2 **Buy food in bulk at grocery stores**
This is a great way to avoid using plastic and other hazardous materials that your food may be packaged in. Find a local store near you where you can buy things like grains and coffee in bulk so you can avoid the packaging. Here are some grocery stores that have bulk options available.

3 **Avoid getting takeout**
We know, this one's tricky, especially right now! But, try to avoid getting takeout that is excessively packaged in plastic containers and bags. Instead, try your best to take meals with you on-the-go in reusable containers! Meal prepping is a fun and healthy habit to get into and can help you discover new meals you enjoy. Here are some meal prep recipes.

4 **Upcycle clothes**
This is another tricky one since online shopping has been a favorite pastime during quarantine. However, buying a bunch of new clothes is not the best way to practice Plastic Free July (remember, many clothes have microplastics embedded into them and clothes often ship to you in lots of plastic!). Instead, try upcycling your clothes! This is a fun and thrifty way to feel like you have a whole new closet, without buying one! You also avoid going out in public and remain environmentally conscious. Upcycling could include embroidering designs into shirts or pants, cutting off sleeves or pant legs, or even stitching an entirely different fabric to the original one! Click here for upcycling ideas!

On Environmental Justice

by Michael Garbarino

In light of the rapid and significant changes currently happening throughout the world, and especially within the United States, the intern team here at NAMEPA would like to acknowledge and discuss a topic we feel is of great relevance. Specifically, we would like to draw attention to the momentum surrounding systems of racial and social injustice and how it applies to our particular field: marine industry and environmentalism. We assert that the environment and racial/social injustice are inextricably linked and that environmental and sustainability issues must be addressed with goals of equity and justice within their solutions. This segment will provide an overview of Environmental Justice and injustice, giving specific marine examples for the purpose of better informing our community.

While historically not widely known outside the field of environmentalism, the Environmental Justice movement has gained greater traction in recent media. Originally a term coined by scholars and activists in the 1980s, Environmental Justice redefines and expands the goals and scope of traditional environmentalism to explicitly include consideration of the inequities and humanitarian consequences that result from human activities like industrialization and land use change. In other words, it seeks to address environmental injustices in an equitable and just manner.

To do this, Environmental Justice has broadened the concept of "environment," incorporating social meaning into a term that once only described the physical world. Instead of stressing the protection of Nature from human harm, it places emphasis on protecting people living in areas of high pollution, drawing links between "traditionally environmental" issues like air pollution, water quality, and land use change with "traditionally social" issues like civil rights and public health.

As stated above, Environmental Justice seeks to correct environmental injustices, but the term "environmental injustice" has not yet been explicitly defined here. What makes something qualify as an environmental injustice? In a 2002 research paper, Juliana Maantay describes it as, "The disproportionate exposure of communities of color and the poor to pollution, and its [associated] effects on health and environment, as well as the unequal environmental protection and environmental quality provided through laws, regulations, governmental programs, enforcement, and policies," (Maantay 2002). As the effects of climate change increase in intensity over time, this definition can be expanded to include not only pollution, but other situations such as rising sea levels and waste dumping. Events like these will only become more frequent with time, making Environmental Justice a particularly important field of study and activism both for the present and future.

Though the majority of scholarly literature and case studies in Environmental Justice concern toxic air pollution, some research has been carried out on marine related topics such as coastal flood risk and waste management shipping. Flood risk is a subject especially pertinent to communities on the Gulf Coast of the United States, which are vulnerable to hurricanes year to year. After Hurricane Harvey occured in the Greater Houston, Texas area, researchers examined flood risk in the city.

They analyzed the distribution of flooded areas and compared them with the demographics of the city, finding that, "The areal extent of Harvey-induced flooding was significantly greater in neighborhoods with a higher proportion of non-Hispanic Black and socioeconomically deprived residents," (Chakraborty et al. 2019). Ultimately, the study concluded that the results provide clear evidence of racial and socioeconomic injustices in flood distribution and risk in the Greater Houston, Texas area, citing a pressing need to address "unequal social consequences of climate change-related disasters."

Nonetheless, environmental injustices are not always so case specific. The topic of toxic waste management has its effects both nationwide and globally. Industrialized countries, like the United States, produce the vast majority of the world's toxic waste, about ninety percent (Pellow et al. 2001). This waste, including e-waste often under the guise of "used goods," is then shipped away to developing countries where it is then illegally dumped. Once there, e-waste is then dismantled by laborers, often young children who work without any personal protection equipment and typically walk barefoot through piles of toxic debris. This is a case of environmental injustice concerning equity issues on a global scale rather than within one country. As displayed by the difference in scopes of the two given examples, environmental injustices can have great variation in the size of the communities they affect.

While awareness concerning the Environmental Justice movement has taken significant strides in recent times, there is much work to be done and much more to be learned in this field, especially in marine specific areas. We, at NAMEPA, acknowledge and actively engage with this aspect of environmentalism, providing education and empowering those directly affected by environmental injustice. We are active in many underrepresented communities throughout North America as we work to pave the way to an equitable and just future.

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