



Press Release:

Ocean Defenders Launch “Tour for the Shore” Campaign The First Paddle, Bike, and Rally Planned from Cape May, NJ to Montauk, NY

*Beach-goers urged to “**Get in Motion for the Ocean**” mid-August 2012 to raise awareness of ocean pollution threats, and support for a Clean Ocean Zone*

Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Long Beach Island, NJ; and Montauk and Freeport, NY-- Clean Ocean Action (COA) a coalition of over 130 organizations, will journey from Cape May, New Jersey to Montauk, New York to bring attention to the need for a clean ocean and educate the public about the New Jersey/New York Clean Ocean Zone Initiative. This fifteen-day campaign from August 10-24, will take place on land and by sea – with rallies everywhere in between.

Facing threats from oil and gas development, pollution, and industrial development, the Clean Ocean Zone initiative was created by concerned citizens along the New York and New Jersey coastlines to lock-out harmful pollution and industrial activities off the coast while locking-in permanent protection for future generations. The ultimate goal is for federal laws protecting our resources to be enacted.

Joined by friends and supporters of the ocean, ocean advocate and paddling enthusiast Margo Pellegrino will travel by outrigger canoe along the shoreline while Clean Ocean Action’s Coastal Policy Attorney Sean Dixon hits the pavement on a road bicycle. Rallies will be held along the way with “beach teams” in place in each coastal Congressional district. Elected leaders will be urged to participate and support the initiative. The tour is scheduled to take place during the peak of the shore’s tourist season providing the coalition the opportunity to reach tens of thousands of people with one message: “The time is now for the Clean Ocean Zone.”

“The region from Cape May NJ to Montauk, NY is currently known as the ‘New Jersey New York Bight’, and that’s just not good enough,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. “Citizens have worked hard for over 25 years to turn our ocean from a national joke to a premier tourism destination and it is now time for us to lock in that success and become the nation’s first Clean Ocean Zone,” she added

The Clean Ocean Zone law would reduce pollution by prohibiting ocean-dumpsites and new wastewater discharge outfalls. Under the proposed Clean Ocean Zone, marine ecosystems would be protected by prohibiting industrialization such as strip mining, oil and gas drilling or exploration, and the construction of non-renewable energy facilities like fossil fuel energy ports. The Clean Ocean Zone would support artificial reefs, beach replenishment, recreational and commercial fishing, responsible development of renewable energy, and all sustainable ocean activities.

No stranger to raising awareness for the ocean, Pellegrino paddled from Miami to Maine in 2007 over the course of just-under 11 weeks, bringing attention to Atlantic Ocean issues from pollution to over-

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development. In 2008, she paddled from Long Beach Island (New Jersey) to Washington, D.C., delivering “messages in a bottle” to legislators. In 2009, Pellegrino paddled the Gulf Coast, then a year later, paddled from Seattle to San Diego - all in the name of the ocean.

“We hope cyclists, surfers, families, kayakers, and beachgoers will grab a bike or a board and join us as we make our way up the coast,” said Dixon, the COA attorney making his first cycling adventure for-a-cause. “We will have maps and timetables online – as well as difficulty estimates – to help anyone who wants to participate decide the best way to take action for the ocean,” Dixon added.

Under the banner, “Get in Motion for the Ocean,” surfers, paddlers, cyclists, and ocean enthusiasts of all experience levels will be invited to join Pellegrino and Dixon at any time during the “Tour for the Shore.” The public can also attend the rallies and sign up for the future campaigns and circulate petitions. Interested citizens will be able to view the campaign’s website to review, the distance, date, location and difficulty level of each leg.

“The idea is to hold a series of fun, awareness raising events along the route of the tour so that people everywhere can learn about the ocean and how to protect it,” said Rav Freidel of Concerned Citizens of Montauk “Whether you paddle, bike, fish, or just love a day at the beach, it is time to stand up and say together ‘We love our ocean and we want our elected officials to permanently protect it,’” Freidel said, adding that rallies would be held to show lawmakers just how many people support the Clean Ocean Zone.

The Tour will be kicking off on August 10th, 2012 in Cape May and making its way up the coast, through New York City, and along the South Shore of Long Island. The Tour will finish in Montauk, NY on Friday, August 24th, 2012. To finish strong, there will be a 100-mile “Century Ride” from Babylon, NY to Montauk kicking off at the break of dawn on Friday the 24th – bringing Dixon and other cyclists to Montauk at the same time as Pellegrino and other paddlers-at-sea.

For details about the legs, dates, and locations of the Tour visit www.cleanoceanzone.org

To find out more about this summer’s tour and to find out how to participate, please visit www.cleanoceanaction.org or call Clean Ocean Action at 732-872-0111.

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