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[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2013

A Shore Thing: New Jersey's Clean Beaches & Waterways

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A Shore Thing: New Jersey's Clean Beaches & Waterways

In The Aftermath Of Superstorm Sandy, Governor Christie Has Acted To Clean Up The State's Water

New Jersey's 127 miles of coastline is home to some of the most beautiful and popular beaches in the USA and abroad. Sixty-two percent of the State's \$38 billion tourism dollars in 2008 were spent at the Jersey Shore. New Jersey's fisheries and shellfisheries generated \$168 million dollars in revenue from landings and employed over 40,000 people in 2008 alone. Healthy marine ecosystems are necessary to sustain coastal tourism-including recreational boating and beach visitation-one of the largest industries in the state.

Even before Superstorm Sandy, New Jersey had one of the nation's best track records in terms of ocean water quality, a vital part of our tourism economy. In the wake of the unprecedented damage from Superstorm Sandy, the Christie Administration acted quickly to ensure New Jersey's beaches and waterways were clean and open for the summer season. This summer, almost 100 percent of our beaches have been open, one of the highest rates in the country.

After the storm, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was able to quickly coordinate one of the largest and most complex disaster cleanups:

More than 8 million cubic yards of debris removed from the streets;

Removed more than 96,000 cubic yards of debris from New Jersey waterways, one of the largest undertakings of its kind ever in the nation;

DEP has assisted in removing 200 vessels from state waters, has completed side scan sonar of 195,000 underwater acres and cleared debris from 275 marinas;

Recreational beach water quality monitoring is performed at 175 ocean and 43 bay monitoring stations;

In addition, aerial surveillance flights are conducted six days a week.

A PROVEN RECORD OF PROTECTING NEW JERSEY'S BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

Since Taking Office, Governor Christie Has Made The Preservation of New Jersey's Iconic Shore And Waterways A Top Priority:

Restored beach replenishment funding to its full level;

Brought much needed reforms to the state's Highlands Council, resulting in a renewed focus on its core mission to safeguard North Jersey's watersheds.

"Nine years after its creation, the state's Highlands Council is doing its job to protect watershed land in northwestern New Jersey. ... The council's latest annual report, released this week, says that about 70 percent of local government units in the region have taken steps to conform to the guidelines of the Highlands master plan. That's a positive move, because it eliminates inconsistency between state and local regulations and also keeps environmentally sensitive land from being developed." (Editorial, Smart Development, *The Record*, 4/4/13)

Signed legislation appropriating over \$2.7 billion in zero and low-cost loans for crucial water and sewer infrastructure projects across the state in the previous four years;

Signed legislation appropriating \$157 million for open space across New Jersey, including preservation projects in the Barnegat Bay watershed, on the Cape May peninsula and along urban waterfronts;

Consistently opposed drilling off of the coast of New Jersey;

Maintained unwavering opposition to liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities off of New Jersey's coastline, including the veto of a proposed deepwater operation 16 miles off the coast of Asbury Park, preventing construction and operation of 44 miles of submerged pipeline and an offshore port to receive foreign vessels transporting LNG to the U.S. for regasification.

In April 2012, The Company Looking To Build The Facility Officially Withdrew Its Application.

Environmentalists are claiming victory for the withdrawal, which follows Gov. Chris Christie's veto of the proposed

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facility more than a year ago. 'The people and the governor have been saying 'no,' and finally, it sunk in,' said Cindy Zipf, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, based in Sandy Hook. 'This was a real grassroots victory of the power of the people.'" (Kathleen Hopkins, "Proposal for offshore liquefied natural gas port withdrawn, Asbury Park Press, April 25, 2012)

Proposed a comprehensive ten-point initiative to restore and protect Barnegat Bay, which the Administration continues to implement aggressively, including negotiating the December 2010 agreement with Exelon to close Oyster Creek 10 years ahead of license expiration;

Enacted the most restrictive standards in the nation for nitrogen content in fertilizer and application rates for use, which will reduce nutrient pollution in Barnegat Bay and statewide;

Enacted law that will reduce post-construction soil compaction to reduce stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution in Barnegat Bay and all of New Jersey's waterways;

Adopted a narrative nutrient criteria rule to establish rigorous water quality standards;

Clearly stated a policy of no new coal-fired power plants in New Jersey, which will reduce pollutants deposited to waterways as well as improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and memorialized that commitment in the State's 2011 Energy Master Plan;

Created a Barnegat Bay Water Quality Monitoring Network to obtain scientific data on pollutants entering the Bay as part of 10-point plan to restore Barnegat Bay in addition to maintaining New Jersey's Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program nationally recognized by the EPA as one of the best in the nation.

Continued to advocate--both publicly and in the courts--a strong position against the dredging project to deepen the Delaware River;

Signed legislation creating free State saltwater fishing registry in New Jersey, allowing New Jersey anglers to avoid a \$15 federal saltwater registration fee.

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