

Ensuring the future for New Jersey's seafood industry



- DEP and the Office of Maritime Resources will work with the commercial fishing industry to ensure that marinas and shore facilities serving the commercial fishing industry are not crowded out by new development.
- DEP will act to restore water quality impairments affecting shellfishing areas.
- DEP will partner with Cumberland County's economic enterprise zone to restore 500 acres of oyster production in Delaware Bay.
- DEP will restore 50-100 acres of hard clam habitat using the shellfish habitat mitigation fund.

The Genesis of the Coast 2005 Initiative

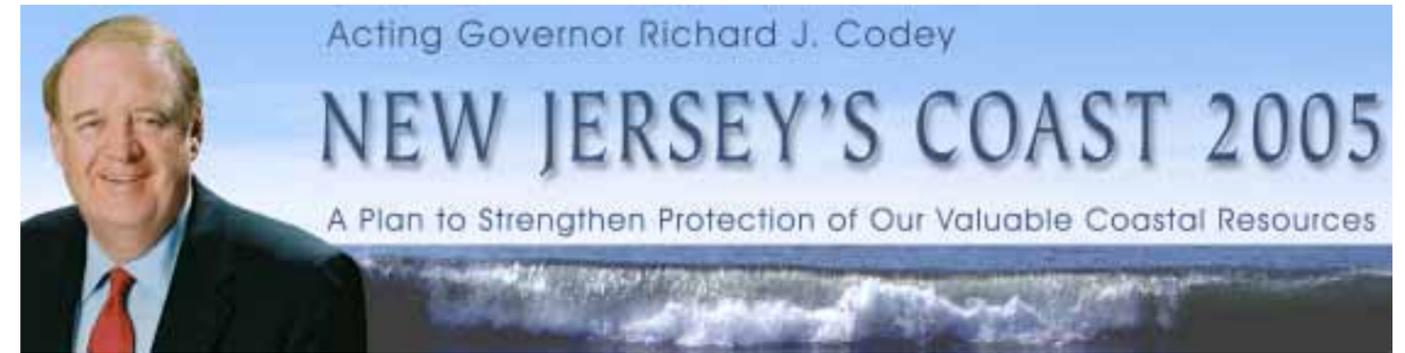
Following the release of two federal studies characterizing the declining state of America's coastal resources, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell circulated to the public a white paper outlining proposals to better protect the environment and economy of New Jersey's shore. Commissioner Campbell then convened public hearings to gather input on the proposals. Joining the Commissioner at these hearings were federal, state and local elected officials, environmental and shore advocacy groups, representatives from shore-based businesses and members of the general public. Following the hearings, the Commissioner worked with fellow cabinet members to draft recommendations, which have been incorporated into the Governor's Coast 2005 initiative. Further information about the initiative is available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Coastal Management Office, P.O. Box 418, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0418, (609) 633-2201.

It's a shore thing

You can help protect New Jersey's beaches and ocean water quality by purchasing the "Shore to Please" license plate, featuring historic Barnegat Lighthouse. Proceeds provide funding for several key environmental programs including Adopt A Beach, Clean Shores and coastal surveillance flights to spot pollution sources. Get the special plates by visiting any Motor Vehicle Agency or by calling (888) 486-3339.



The public can get the latest, most accurate information on beach water quality by calling (800) 648-SAND or by visiting NJBeaches.org



New Jersey's coast is a natural treasure: a haven for vacationers; a frontier for sport and commercial fishermen; a sanctuary and crossroads for a range of wildlife species; and a source of fond memories for generations of families.

The natural capital of the shore's economy – clean water, diverse wildlife, open beaches – is critical to the region's economy. But these assets also are under significant threat. Two comprehensive reports, including a recent study by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which included Monmouth University President Paul Gaffney and Lillian Borrone, former Assistant Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, document significant threats to the resources of our coasts from unchecked development and poorly managed resources. While the Commission's recommendations have languished in the U.S. Congress, New Jersey can take a leadership role by addressing these threats under its current coastal zone management programs.

Stronger protections for water quality and habitat

- N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will strengthen standards for ocean dischargers, to avoid impacts to water quality. DEP will require implementation of measures that will prevent catastrophic sewage spills through maintenance and upgrading of aging infrastructure.
- DEP will target \$30 million in grants to accelerate projects that improve coastal water quality.
- Following public input and adequate data collection, DEP will begin restoration of Wreck Pond (the major source of beach closings) no later than September 2005.
- DEP will begin reconstruction of the Deal Lake Flume no later than September 2005.
- DEP will partner with other state agencies, non-profit groups, trade organizations and marina owners to activate the "New Jersey Clean Marina" program.
- New Jersey will work with anglers, environmentalists, and the New Jersey congressional delegation to establish a "Clean Ocean Zone" to protect water quality in the New York/New Jersey Bight by eliminating and preventing pollution.



Stronger controls for offshore development

- Governor Codey's Blue Ribbon Panel on Offshore Wind Development will ensure a public process when finalizing recommendations to the Governor on whether offshore wind energy is appropriate for New Jersey.
- New Jersey will strengthen coastal zone restrictions regarding offshore oil and gas development and will petition the federal government to accept these new restrictions under federal law.



Stronger controls for on-shore development

- DEP will use its acquisition and restoration funding for sensitive coastal areas, linking natural areas along the shore and strengthening habitat protection.
- DEP will work to ensure that development areas along the shore steer clear of threatened and

endangered species habitat, wetlands, water resource and recharge areas, and other critical environmental features and do not exceed the capacity of coastal resources to support growth.

Protecting and enhancing shore recreation

- DEP will acquire, clean, and sink three additional ships in 2005 to enhance New Jersey's premier system of artificial reefs.
- DEP and N.J. Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) will provide \$40,000 and technical assistance to the Surfrider Foundation and the Surfers Environmental Alliance to design and construct a new reef that will restore and enhance surfing opportunities along the shore.



- DEP will provide families with Internet mapping of public access points along the oceanfront, will maintain and promote public access points along the oceanfront and bays, and will work with the Attorney General's office to protect the public's right of access to and along the shore.
- New Jersey will partner with marinas to achieve a net gain of 1500 public and private boat slips.
- DEP will fund the construction of new public boat ramps in 2005 to serve fishermen in the Oyster Creek and Cape May areas.
- DEP will prioritize permitting for Hancey's Pond and other local lagoon dredging projects.
- DEP and the Office of Maritime Resources within the N.J. Department of Transportation will assist communities in developing regional dredged material management plans.
- DEP will update the state's Dredging Manual to incorporate lessons learned since development of the manual in 1997 to ensure that navigational dredging needs continue to be met using environmentally sound methods and to improve sediment quality data.



Preserving the shore's landscape and character

- DEP, N.J. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and CRDA will collaborate on new rules and design standards to protect the historic resources and character of Jersey Shore communities.
- DEP, DCA and CRDA will pilot a program to acquire development rights to preserve family-run marinas and shore attractions that are under significant development pressure.
- DEP will work with the Marine Trades Association and marina owners, on regulatory and program reform that will ensure the economic viability of marinas and other maritime businesses along New Jersey's coast.

