

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

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"NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone" Bill Announced -- H.R. 5872



"This bill is a comprehensive plan for the recovery and improvement of the NY/NJ Bight after years of abuse. It is a regional problem, but it cries out for a national answer," said **Rep. Jim Saxton** (pictured left), the Vice Chairman of the Fisheries and Oceans Subcommittee in the US House of Representatives. "I'm pleased to work with COA and my colleague Frank Pallone to introduce a bill that would create a 'Clean Ocean Zone.'"

"We've come a long way since the days in 1987 and 1988 when we had countless beach closures, but taking our clean beaches for granted would be a serious mistake," said **Rep. Frank Pallone** (pictured right). "That's why we need to write ocean and beach protections into federal law so they can't be undone by some future Administration."



A project of Clean Ocean Action over the past few years, the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) is a cooperative initiative among organizations and citizens. A committee comprised of groups from New York and New Jersey (see list) representing various interests, including recreational and commercial fishing, diving, surfing, and environmental, as well as legal counsel, developed the COZ bill.

"The key to healthier fish is a clean ocean," said **James Lovgren, Fishermen's Dock Cooperative of Pt. Pleasant**. "Ocean water quality has come a long way in the past 20 years and now we need to take steps – like the Clean Ocean Zone – to ensure the health of fish in the future and to safeguard the commercial fishing industry."

"When passed, the COZ will represent true marine natural resource management. The Hudson River Fishermen's Association has long realized that strong environmental legislation leads to a healthy thriving ecological habitat. The ocean is the last and most forgotten frontier. By establishing the COZ, that area of the Atlantic Ocean becomes a stable measurable standard for all its contributory waters. We stand behind its principles and urge its strong bipartisan support and swift passage," said **Gil Hawkins, Environmental Affairs Chair, Hudson River Fishermen's Association**.

"We hope this legislation will lead the way to an era of health for our ocean – an era that will be appreciated by all ocean inhabitants, enthusiasts, and visitors," said **Richard Lee, Board of Directors, Surfers' Environmental Alliance**.

"We need to keep up the full court press to protect the ocean as the issues change over the years," said **Willie deCamp, Jr., President, Save Barnegat Bay**.

"The public has fought hard for years to protect the coastal waters of New Jersey and New York. We are seeing renewed effort to industrialize the ocean and expose it to new pollution," said **Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral**

Society. "The COZ will give us an important tool to fight back against those who would exploit our coast."

"The COZ is the key legislation needed for the protection of these traditional and historical recreational fishing grounds," said **Jessica Knox, Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Marine Policy, Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA)**.

(continued)

NJ/NY COZ Bill - H.R. 5872*

- CHAMPIONS:
Reps. Saxton (NJ-R-3)
Pallone (NJ-D-6)
- Original Co-sponsors:
Reps. Robert Andrews (NJ-D-1),
Frank LoBiondo (R-2),
Chris Smith (NJ-R-4),
Steven Rothman (NJ-D-9),
Donald Payne (NJ-D-10), Rush
Holt (NJ-D-12), Tim Bishop (NY-
D-1), Major Owens (NY-D-11)

*at press time



Members of the COZ Legislative Committee join the Congressmen to celebrate the COZ introduction

Members of the COZ Legislative Committee

- **Larrell Brown, Alliance for a Living Ocean**
- **Tim Dillingham, American Littoral Society**
- **Andrew Provence, Esq., Ansell Zaro Grimm & Aaron, P.C.**
- **Tom Fagan, Communication Workers of America – Local 1034**
- **Jim Lovgren, Fisherman's Dock Co-op – Pt. Pleasant**
- **John Malizia, Fishermen's Conservation Association**
- **Rav Freidel, Friends of Long Island Sound**
- **Greg DiDomenico, Garden State Seafood Association**
- **Charlie Stamm and Gil Hawkins, Hudson River Fishermen's Association**
- **Ed Dlugosz, Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater**
- **Glenn Arthur & Jack Fullmer, NJ Council of Diving Clubs**
- **Dan Lieb, NJ Historical Divers Association**
- **Jim Donofrio, Recreational Fishing Alliance**
- **Willie deCamp, Jr., Save Barnegat Bay**
- **Richard Lee, Surfers' Environmental Alliance**
- **Ray Bogan, Esq., United Boatmen of NY/NJ**

Next Steps for the COZ: Citizen & Legislative Campaign



Congressman Saxton signs the COZ map



Andrew Provenge, Esq.



Tim Dillingham, ALS



Ed Dlugosz, MCFC



Congressmen Pallone & Saxton fill-in the first step of the "Fish-o-meter" to mark the introduction of the COZ bill

To date, the COZ is supported by nearly 100 organizations, over 35 municipalities, and more than 15,000 citizens who signed petitions. The next step is for organizations and citizens to contact their US Representatives and urge them to support H.R. 5872 -- The NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone bill.

As the COZ legislation moves ahead, citizens will be able to follow the "migration" or journey of the bill through the legislative process by using Clean Ocean Action's "Fish-o-Meter" (see photo to left). The fish-o-meter is a chart in the form of a fish that will be filled-in as steps are completed in the process as H.R. 5872 becomes federal law.

For updates on the COZ, supporting organizations and municipalities, maps, charts, and ways to get involved in the campaign for H.R. 5872, visit www.CleanOceanZone.org.



(L-R) Kari Jermansen (COA), Dave Porciello, Cindy Zipf (COA), and Shaun McGuinness

WAVES OF THANKS...

to the staff of **The Sawmill Cafe/Green Room** for generously hosting the press conference and reception on July 22 for the COZ bill introduction.

Special thanks to owner **Steve Donofrio** and **Manager Dave Porciello**. COA also thanks **Seaside Park Mayor Robert Matthies, Council Members, and Borough Administrator Jay Delaney** for supporting the COZ and local hospitality. Also, COA greatly appreciates the time and talent of **Shaun McGuinness, A Shore Shot -- Photographic Solutions**, as photographer of the landmark event and thanks him for his dedication to the ocean.



Cindy Zipf (center) congratulates COA volunteers, Pat & Bob Bennekamper, for their actions to support the COZ; Pat & Bob collected thousands of citizens' signatures on petitions for the COZ

Photographs by Shaun McGuinness, A Shore Shot -- Photographic Solutions



COA staff, volunteers, and friends smile for the COZ (Back row, L-R) Bob Bennekamper, Pat Bennekamper, Joe Martin, Kari Jermansen, Keith Rella, Rick Jones (Front row, L-R) Jessie Barrett, Jennifer Smiga, Mary-Beth Thompson, Richard Lee, Cindy Zipf, Scott Thompson