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LITTORALLY SPEAKING

Littoral: The region along the shore; the intertidal zone



News from the American Littoral Society

Winter 2023

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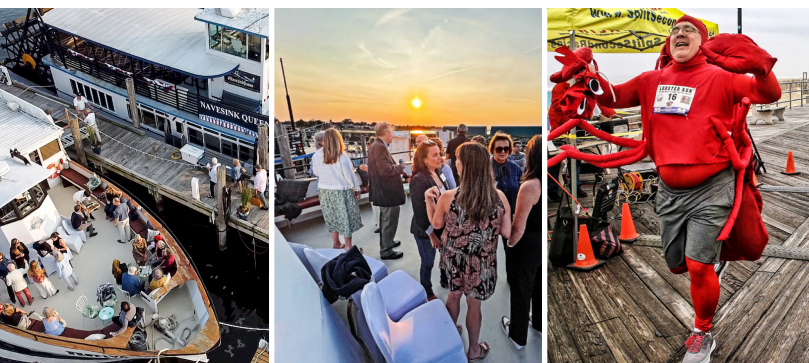
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SAVE THE DATE

The American Littoral has a number of annual activities, including several trips to coastal locations and other fun events. To learn more about them – including how you can join us – take a look at our Upcoming Event Calendar by scanning the QR Code.



- **Montauk Winter Weekend**, January 19-21, Montauk Manor, 236 Edgemere Street, Montauk NY
- **9th Annual Lobster Run 5k**, Saturday, April 27 The Break, 1000 N Ocean Ave, Asbury Park, NJ
- **Assateague/Chincoteague Spring Weekend**, May 2024
- **Members Day 2024**, Saturday, June 22, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Highlands, NJ
- **Cape Ann Whale Watch**, August 2024
- **6th Annual Littorally Local Sunset Cruise**, Friday Sep 27, 52 Simon Lake Dr, Atlantic Highlands, NJ
- **Assateague/Chincoteague Fall Weekend**, November 2024

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Volunteer with the Littoral Society

The Littoral Society has many volunteer opportunities, such as tagging horseshoe crabs, monitoring restoration projects, lending a hand with administrative assistance, joining beach cleanups, and so much more. If you would like to learn more about how you can help us continue Caring for the Coast, fill out our online volunteer interest form and we'll get back to you with related opportunities.

Scan the QR code to reach the form.



Forked River Reefs Receive Recycled Oyster Shell

While the heavy lifting may be done at the Littoral Society's project in Forked River Beach, NJ, work at the site will continue for the foreseeable future.

In addition to monitoring and maintenance of the living shoreline project, which is designed to protect homes and habitat along an eroding section of Barnegat Bay's shoreline while also reducing the amount of sediment getting into the water, Littoral Society staff will continue meeting with and speaking to residents and officials from the surrounding community.

Reef building was completed on Oct. 16-17, with installation of the final sections by our contractor Albert

Marine Construction. The protective reef now runs just offshore from near the mouth of Forked River in the north, to a lagoon located at the southern end of Beach Boulevard.

Those final reef sections mark the first use of recycled shells from the Littoral Society's "Shuck It, Don't Chuck It!" program in a major restoration project. The reef has also been seeded with 32 million live oyster, as part of the Littoral Society's effort to help bring those bivalves to New Jersey's coastal waters.

Scan the QR code to read more.





ASMFC Maintains Female Horseshoe Crab Harvest Restrictions Through 2024

Female horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay will be protected for another year, according to a recent announcement from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

Last year, tens of thousands of people like you spoke out against a plan to increase the bait harvest of horseshoe crabs in the Delaware Bay and your voices helped convince the ASMFC not to lift its decade-long moratorium on harvesting female crabs.

The American Littoral Society would like to thank you for helping us protect the Delaware Bay's horseshoe crab population and the shorebirds which rely on the crab's protein-rich eggs to fuel their migratory journeys, such as the Rufa Red Knot. Red Knot populations collapsed during the 1990s, at the same time horseshoe crab populations plummeted due to unregulated overfishing, and the birds remain on the U.S. threatened species list.

Unfortunately, along with the good news came some bad: the Commission's Horseshoe Crab Management Board plans to increase the harvest limits for male horseshoe crabs for the 2024 season because — according to their new Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework, which was adopted last year — the population of both female and male horseshoe crabs in the Delaware region is at its highest level since 2003.

Scan the QR code to read more.



Littoral Society Work with RiSC Plays Role in Recent Documentary

For the past few years, the American Littoral Society has been working with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), New York City Schools and other partners on the Resilient Schools Consortium (RiSC) program.

Recently, a short documentary about that work was shown at New York University. The screening was followed by a panel discussion on teaching children about climate change and the ecology of Coney Island Creek. The panel included Alexandra Kanonik, our Jamaica Bay Program Director.

The film, titled "Where it Floods: Planting Hope in Coney Island," follows the journey of students from seven NYC middle and high schools as they learn about climate science, climate impacts and the natural and built solutions that increase climate resiliency in Coney Island.

"We're very excited to share this film which showcases the impact that climate education programs like RiSC can have in our schools and frontline communities," said Emily Fano, senior program manager for the consortium and one of the film's co-producers. "Students and educators need resources to help them understand how the climate crisis is impacting their neighborhoods now, how it will impact them in the future, and how they can mitigate those impacts locally."

Scan the QR code to read more.



Attendees Enjoy a Visual Buffet on Cape May Wildlife Weekend



A rainy Saturday didn't dampen spirits or wash out activities during the Littoral Society's 2023 Fall Cape May Wildlife Weekend on October 12-15.

It certainly helped that every other day had near perfect seasonal weather but even amidst a downpour on Saturday, trip attendees still ventured into the wild to marvel at the incredible birds and wildlife that visit or reside in this picturesque part of southern New Jersey.

As expected, bird watching didn't disappoint. Cape May is one of the top sites on the east coast for witnessing fall bird migration and trip participants counted 86 different species — including a number of Terns, Teals, and Herons, as well as numerous shorebirds, dozens of ducks (including two Pied-billed Grebe and an American Coot), a Northern Harrier (a ground-nesting raptor with a flat, owl-like face) and three Brown Pelicans.

Speaking of raptors, a large variety were sighted (including procrastinating Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlin, Broad-Winged Hawks, two Bald Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon). Many could be seen every day hanging out on light poles and buildings or overhead catching thermals with Turkey Vultures.

Scan the QR code to read more.



Annual Fluke Tagging Trip Reveals Bounty of Marine Life

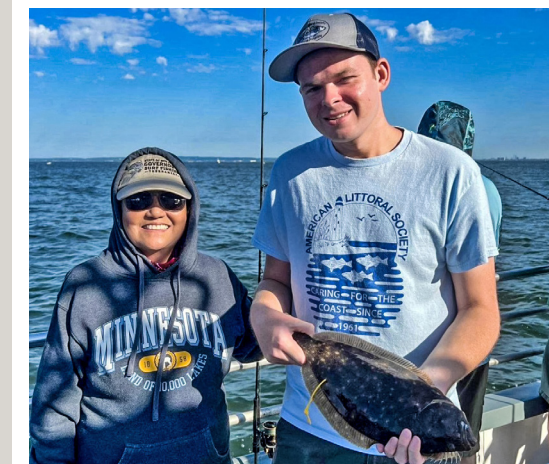
The sun was shining on Sunday, August 27, and the sea breeze whispered secrets of adventure as 31 eager anglers gathered on board the Mi-Jo 2 for the American Littoral Society's Annual Fluke Tagging Trip. The day delivered some unforgettable memories and contributed to the sustainable fishing efforts of our Fish Tagging Program.

Each angler played a vital role in this mission but some of them stood out with remarkable tagging achievements:

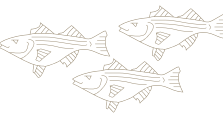
- A total of 50 fish tagged during the trip.
- One angler led the way with eight tagged fluke, with 3 of keeper size or larger.
- Another angler came a close second with six tagged fluke.

While tagging was the primary goal of the trip, we couldn't help but be thrilled by the quality of the fish we encountered. In total, 12 fluke over 17 inches were reeled in. Among these, the largest fluke caught measured an impressive 22.5 inches.

The adventure didn't stop at fluke tagging; the sea presented a diverse array of marine creatures including black sea bass, bluefish, sea robin, dogfish, clearnose skate, and porgies. To top it off, cownose rays made appearances, gracefully swimming around our vessel



Scan the QR code to read more.



Recycling Milestone Alert: 1 Million Shells Collected!

Recently the "Shuck It, Don't Chuck It!" program, the American Littoral Society's shell recycling initiative, collected its millionth shell. That shell also brought our overall total of shells recycled to nearly 37,000 pounds this year and 32 tons since the program launched in 2015.

This incredible milestone wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and aid of our amazing supporters. Funded by grants and driven in large part by volunteer oyster wranglers and community helpers — such as participating restaurants - each shell collected represents a step towards the long-term goal of re-oysterating New Jersey's bays and estuaries.

The shells we collect take a full-circle journey, from briny waters to your plate, then to our bins, and eventually back to our shorelines where they can help spawn more oysters. By recycling these shells, we're not only reducing waste that ends up in landfills but also providing essential material for the Littoral Society's shoreline restoration projects such as the reefs we've built to protect locations along Delaware and Barnegat Bay. These reefs also play a role in improving water quality and providing habitat for marine life.



Scan the QR code to read more.

