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January 2018 E-  
Newsletter

### From the Baykeeper

Happy New Year! While we have started off the new year with some great successes - pushing pause on the plan to build a massive millionaire's marina in Liberty State Park and publishing our plastics sampling results in a scientific journal - we are not resting on our laurels. We know we have a lot of work to do in 2018 to oppose an unnecessary pipeline that would destroy Raritan Bay, make sure our agenda is front and center with the new NJ Administration and move forward with policies and laws to reduce plastic pollution in the NY Harbor Estuary.

Looking forward to working with you to

### Governor's Christie's Plans to Destroy Free Access to Liberty State Park's Open Space Have Been Halted!



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is trying to move forward with a backroom lease for a second massive private marina on Liberty State Park's non-commercial Southside. The construction of a "Millionaire's Marina" will reduce public parking and severely harm the park's use by families who treasure this area for picnics, barbecues, exercising, kayaking and fishing.

Last week, a judge ordered a restraining order that temporarily prevents Suntex Marinas from entering into a proposed lease agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – essentially putting the project on hold until Governor-Elect Murphy takes office on January 16th. We will remain vigilant and update you on any developments, but we are heartened by Governor-Elect Murphy's statement that he will NOT move ahead with the project once he takes office – a statement the Friends of Liberty State Park and NY/NJ Baykeeper will hold him accountable to.

### Our Plastics Research Has Been Published in a Peer Reviewed Journal!

protect our  
environment.

Debbie Mans  
NY/NJ Baykeeper

### Upcoming Events

January 19, 2018  
ANJEE Winter  
Conference  
[Click here](#) for  
details.

March 24, 2018  
Comptons Creek  
Cleanup

[Click here](#) for  
details.

VIDEO: Check out  
this [video](#) of the  
removal of Weston  
Mill Dam from the  
Millstone River.

[Click here](#) to view  
videos created by  
Newark's East Side  
High School students  
about plastic pollution  
in partnership with  
NY/NJ Baykeeper,  
Rutgers University,  
and Ironbound  
Community  
Corporation.

### Thank You for Your Support!

Because of you, in  
2017, NY/NJ  
Baykeeper was able  
to: expand the first  
ever living shoreline in  
Raritan Bay to double  
its original size,  
provide free kayaking  
to more communities  
with each session  
filling to capacity,  
educate over 3,000  
kids and kids-at-heart  
through our programs,



We're starting 2018 with some great news! We're thrilled to announce that our research results on the presence of plastic and environmental impacts in NJ urban freshwaters has been published in the peer-reviewed journal *AIMS Environmental Science*!

Our researchers, in conjunction with Rutgers CUES, discovered that baby fish exposed to pure plastic exhibited heart defects and growth abnormalities - suggesting that plastic and pollutants can travel up the food chain and impact aquatic life. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### We Condemn the Trump Administration's Plan to Open Atlantic Waters to Offshore Drilling

The Trump administration announced its plans to open nearly all U.S. federal waters to offshore drilling activities, including 9 potential leases off the Atlantic coast. This radical offshore drilling plan is a clear example of politics over people, ignoring widespread local and state opposition.



### How to Help:

launch a campaign to educate communities impacted by sea level rise and climate change, break ground, with partners, on three Paterson City School green infrastructure projects that will divert 50,000 gallons from the City's overloaded sewer system, add 10 locations to NY/NJ Baykeeper ongoing Plastics Reduction Sampling Program, and remove over 46,000 gallons of waste from over 1,600 recreational boats.

[Become a Member Today!](#)

### We've Moved!

Our new address is  
30 Washington  
Street, Matawan, NJ  
07747

### In the News

[Liberty State Park Marina Battle Has Air of Class Warfare](#)

[Jersey City Files Lawsuit to Halt Liberty State Park Marina Protest](#)

[Military Turns to Oyster Reefs to Protect Against Storms](#)

[Baby Oysters are Finally Growing in Raritan Bay](#)

[Baby Oysters Discovered in a NJ Bay are Cause for Celebration](#)

### 1. Attend an upcoming public meeting:

WHEN: February 14 from 3:00 - 7:00 PM

WHERE: Hilton Garden Inn (800 US Highway 130 Hamilton, NJ.)

### 2. Sign a petition:

[Click here](#) to add your name to tell Secretary Zinke that you oppose offshore drilling,

### Staff Picks! Sami's Resolutions for a Greener 2018

1. **Get Outside.** Visit New York and New Jersey's state and county parks. Check out Greg's recommendations for trails throughout the Raritan Bayshore [here](#).
2. **Plant A Tree:** Trees are a natural green infrastructure solution to absorb rainfall and prevent water from adding to our stressed sewer systems.
3. **Skip the Straw.** Americans use 500 million plastic straws *per day*. Say, "no straw please" when ordering a drink or even bring your own. Learn more [here](#).
4. **Become A Member.** Together we can protect, preserve and restore our unique urban environment. More info on how to become a NY/NJ Baykeeper member [here](#).
5. **Get Your Hands Dirty.** Join us at one our cleanups! Check our [website](#) for dates and locations.

[Click here](#) to check out the rest of our 18 resolutions!

Stay connected. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Instagram](#) @NYNJBaykeeper



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