

NEWS

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

P. O. Box 402, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

www.state.nj.us/dep



Bob Martin, Commissioner

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2014

Contact: Bob Considine (609) 984-1795

Lawrence Ragonese (609) 292-2994

Lawrence Hajna (609) 984-1795

Media Advisory/Photo and Video Opportunity

*****Friday, April 25, 2014*****

*****9 a.m.*****

DEP COMMISSIONER MARTIN TO LAUNCH FIFTH BARNEGAT BAY BLITZ, REPORT ON STATUS OF THE BAY RESTORATION EFFORTS

*BRIEFING ON CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION PLAN TO RESTORE BAY TO
PRECEDE UNVEILING OF NEW LIVING SHORELINE AND DAY-LONG CLEANUP
THROUGHOUT WATERSHED*

TRENTON – On Friday, April 25 at 9 a.m. sharp, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin will update the media and stakeholders on the action plan for restoring Barnegat Bay before kicking off the fifth Barnegat Bay Blitz watershed-wide cleanup.

The briefing and Blitz kickoff will take place on the grounds of the Ocean County Parks Administrative Office within Cattus Island County Park. A new living shoreline, which improves erosion control and water quality by way of natural filtration of runoff, will also be commemorated at the event.

After Commissioner Martin's update, thousands of local volunteers, students and DEP staff will fan out across the estuary's watershed to clean up trash and debris as part of the massive Blitz effort, which raises awareness of the Christie Administration's action plan and the bay's recovery efforts.

Reporters who would like to join Commissioner Martin for a cleanup of a nearby location on Barnegat Bay MUST RSVP with the DEP Press Office in advance as boat space is limited. The anticipated time for transport and cleanup coverage with Commissioner Martin is 90 minutes.

Other cleanups will be taking place throughout the watershed in Ocean and Monmouth counties. Reporters are welcome to contact staff captains of these cleanups to coordinate local stories. Team captain contact numbers and other information about the Barnegat Bay Blitz can be found at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/barnegatbay/bbblitz.htm>

More than 17,000 volunteers have participated since the first Barnegat Blitz in May 2011, collecting thousands of bags of trash and filling dozens of dumpsters and dump trucks with a wide assortment of trash and debris.

The DEP is the core organizer of the Barnegat Bay Blitz, providing staff captains who work with the local community to identify cleanup locations and coordinate local volunteers. Captains are

also in charge of event-day logistics.

Ocean County Parks Administrative Office, 1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, 08753

Directions from Garden State Parkway South:

- Take Exit 88. After toll, make left onto Route 70 East.
- Go .5 mile on Route 70 East. Make right onto Shorrock Road.
- Follow Shorrock Road for 1.6 miles. Bear left at bend. Shorrock becomes Beaverson Blvd.
- Take Beaverson Blvd .8 mile. Make right onto Brick Blvd.
- After 1 mile, Brick Blvd. becomes Hooper Avenue.
- Take Hooper Avenue 1.4 miles and merge onto Fischer Blvd. jughandle.
- Take Fischer Blvd. 1.6 miles.
- Make left onto Yellowbank Road. Go .3 mile and make left onto Bandon Road. Follow to Parks' Office.

Directions from Garden State Parkway North:

- Take Exit 82 to Route 37 East. Go 1 mile to Hooper Avenue jughandle.
- Go 3.6 miles on Hooper Avenue.
- Make right onto Fischer Blvd.
- Take Fischer Blvd. 1.6 miles.
- Make left onto Yellowbank Road. Go .3 mile and make left onto Bandon Road. Follow to Parks' Office.

###