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## **New Jersey Clean Communities Recognizes NJDEP’s “Clean Shores” Program with “Adopt-a-Beach Award”**

**TRENTON, NJ – August 8, 2017** – The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s (NJDEP) “Clean Shores” program has won the “Adopt-a-Beach Award” from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) for its commitment to maintaining coastlines across the state.

The Adopt-A-Beach Award is presented annually to an organization/entity that encourages the maintenance of beaches, public property, bays, rivers and waterways, to protect natural resources and limit street litter.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Clean Shores Program was Virginia Loftin, supervisor of the program.

Since its creation in 1989, the Clean Shores program has effectively removed more than 145 million pounds of debris from the coast that impacts the public safety and health of local communities. The program uses inmate labor – comprising work crews of 10 – to sweep affected areas ranging from Raritan Bay Shore Beach to Sandy Hook. The program runs year round, even during storms and high tides.

“We aim to leave something cleaner than we found it,” Loftin said. “Anything that we remove from shore lines is something that won’t refloat during a high tide.”

“The Clean Shores program is a terrific partner for us and has made tremendous strides in the battle against litter,” said NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber. “We are proud to salute this innovative program that maximizes state resources to keep our shore lines litter free.”

NJCCC is a comprehensive, statewide litter-abatement program that has served New Jersey residents and visitors for more than 25 years. Learn more at [njclean.org](http://njclean.org).

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