

12 NJ MAYORS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON ALL OFFSHORE WIND ACTIVITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The alarming number of recent whale deaths has prompted 12 mayors of New Jersey coastal towns to call for immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activity pending a thorough investigation by federal and state authorities. In a letter to federal and state officials, the mayors express their concern about “the unprecedented number of whales that have washed ashore recently.” Concerns that acoustic surveys related to offshore wind development may be a contributing factor in the 7 recent whale deaths that occurred over a 38-day period - more than has ever been recorded in the State of New Jersey in such a small amount of time - has brought strong opposition from local environmental groups and residents. This morning, the 8th dead whale in the New Jersey and New York area washed ashore on Lido Beach, New York. The officials represent the communities of Wildwood Crest, North Wildwood, Stone Harbor, Linwood, Brigantine, Long Beach Township, Mantoloking, Bay Head, Point Pleasant Beach, Spring Lake, and Deal. Additional communities in New Jersey have moved to consider resolutions for an immediate moratorium on offshore wind activity as well.

The mayors’ letter emphasizes that “While we are not opposed to clean energy, we are concerned about the impacts these projects may already be having on our environment.” Offshore wind developers have obtained permits for the “incidental taking” of whales, which would typically be illegal under federal law. This could include potential injury to whales, such as damaging their hearing, or by causing behavioral disruptions in feeding and migration. In response to similar concerns, Benjamin Laws, Deputy Chief for the Permits and Conservation Division with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources, says that “there is an expectation that the work will impact marine life, including whales.” NOAA and other self-described environmental groups denounce the lack of evidence about the cause for these recent whale deaths and nevertheless encourage the wind industry and Governor Murphy to press on with his plan to install 11.5 GW of offshore wind projects in New Jersey.

The mayors call for an immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activity pending a thorough investigation by federal and state agencies “that confidently determines” the offshore wind activities are not a contributing factor in the recent whale deaths.

Senator Bob Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cory Booker
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
2427 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
2107 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

January 30th, 2023

12 New Jersey Coastal Mayors Unite in Calling for a Moratorium on All Offshore Wind Activity Until Investigations are Held

Dear Members of the New Jersey Delegation,

The 12 undersigned mayors of New Jersey coastal communities stand united in their concern about the unprecedented number of whales that have washed ashore recently and call for an immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activities until an investigation is held by federal and state agencies that confidently determines these activities are not a contributing factor to recent whale deaths.

On January 12th, the 7th dead whale in 38 days washed ashore in Brigantine, New Jersey. The unprecedented number of whale strandings coincides with ongoing activity from acoustic survey vessels for the development of offshore wind.

While we are not opposed to clean energy, we are concerned about the impacts these projects may already be having on our environment. We urge you to take action now to prevent future deaths from needlessly occurring on our shorelines.

We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



PATRICK ROSENELLO
Mayor of North Wildwood



JUDITH M. DAVIES-DUNHOUR
Mayor of Stone Harbor



PAUL M. KANITRA
Mayor of Point Pleasant Beach




Vincent J. Sera (Jan 25, 2023 10:45 EST)

VINCENT SERA
Mayor of Brigantine



SAMUEL COHEN
Mayor of Deal



JOSEPH MANCINI
Mayor of Long Beach Township

William W. Curtis
William W. Curtis (Jan 25, 2023 15:31 EST)

BILL CURTIS
Mayor of Bay Head

Don
Don Cabrera (Jan 23, 2023 09:43 HST)

DON CABRERA
Mayor of Wildwood Crest

Michael Becker

MICHAEL BECKER
Mayor of Margate

Lance White

LANCE WHITE
Mayor of Mantoloking

Jennifer Naughton

JENNIFER NAUGHTON
Mayor of Spring Lake

Darren Matik

DARREN MATIK
Mayor of Linwood