

Press Release: Save Long Beach Island, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Save the Whales: The World's Most Endangered Large Whale may be Closer to Extinction Due to the Proposed Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project

June 23, 2024 - The Atlantic Shores project threatens the survival of the critically endangered North American right whale. With just 350 remaining, this species is already perilously close to extinction.

The wind project's pile driving construction and turbine operation will generate underwater noise levels capable of causing physiological damage, hearing loss, and changes in vital behaviors like communication, navigation, migration, and reproduction. There is general scientific consensus that the whale will likely avoid the continuous noise from the turbines which will be present in or near their historic migration routes in or adjacent to the wind project area making it virtually impossible for them to traverse these waters.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) inadequately assesses the threat. The EIS underestimates and downplays the impact of operational noise on these animals contrary to multiple sources. It also inexplicably reduces the number of whales that may be affected — using a much lower expected migration number than in previous projections without scientific evidence to support those figures. In fact, the numbers projected are about half the actual estimated number based on previous studies.

“BOEM’s analysis is inadequate and misleading,” said Bob Stern, President of Save Long Beach Island. “Approving a 200-turbine offshore wind project based on this flawed report would be irresponsible and potentially catastrophic for the right whales and the marine ecosystem.”

The environmental impacts of such an undertaking are far reaching and at the very least, deserve an unbiased assessment. Sadly, this has not been the case to date and the public continues to be misled by government and company officials who are promoting the project as the answer to climate change, even though the EIS itself says the opposite.

Save Long Beach Island, Inc. **calls on the federal agency, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management not to approve this project**, and is taking a number of steps to stop this travesty including:

- **Petitioning the involved agencies** to designate the project and adjacent area as a critical migration habitat to protect the whales, and
- **Filing law suits** to protect marine mammals, preserve the sanctity of the shore experience,

prevent significant hikes in electric bills and avert substantial property value losses.

The Atlantic Shores project SHOULD NOT move forward. You can TAKE ACTION now:

- Go to our website, www.savelbi.org, to make a donation to fund our lawsuits.
- Attend information sessions listed on the website.
- Contact your elected representatives to make your concerns heard.

Save LBI is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and quality of life on Long Beach Island, New Jersey.