

P.O. Box 2087 Long Beach Township, NJ, 08008

www.SaveLBI.org

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Save LBI Announces Intent to Petition the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to Provide for a Safe Migration Corridor to Save the Critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale.

LONG BEACH ISLAND (LBI), NEW JERSEY, January 27, 2025 – Save LBI, the non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting our oceans from the destructive impacts of offshore wind projects, today announced its intent to file a petition with the NOAA to allow the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) to migrate safely and survive as a species. The petition will ask the agency to designate a migration corridor along the East Coast as a critical habitat for the NARW, whose population totals less than 340 today.

In order to survive, the North Atlantic right whale must migrate annually up and down the East Coast from its feeding grounds to its calving grounds. The NARW population continues to

decline and the whales now face a new ominous threat from the noise generated from offshore wind turbines placed within and adjacent to its well-known migratory paths. (For more on this subject, visit SaveLBI.org and click here.)

NOAA has established two critical habitat areas for the NARW – one off the coast of New England, primarily for feeding, and one off the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, primarily for calving – but has yet to designate a critical habitat for migration in between these areas. Protecting this "missing-link" region, which is equally essential to ensuring the whale's survival, will enable it to migrate safely from one critical habitat to the other.

On January 23, 2025, Save LBI provided the required 30-day notice to the affected states along the proposed critical habitat migration corridor.

The Save LBI petition will show that the significant and persistent operational noise from the newer, larger offshore wind turbine complexes proposed today – which includes the federally-approved Atlantic Shores South project 8.7 miles off the coast of Atlantic City, Brigantine, and southern LBI – will at a minimum impede, and potentially block, the NARW from traversing the proposed critical habitat migration area. For this reason, Save LBI is asking the NOAA to prohibit the placement of wind turbines in the proposed corridor, as well as in a surrounding buffer zone to address the elevated noise transmitted beyond the perimeter of a wind complex.

Establishing a wind-turbine-free zone along the East Coast will also preserve other important uses of the sea, such as navigation and defense, and preserve the seafood, maritime, and tourism industries of the affected states.

About Save LBI

Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) is an organization of citizens and businesses on and off the Island working together to protect the ocean and Long Beach Island and neighboring communities from the destructive impact of the Atlantic Shores project and potentially other offshore wind projects. As a not-for-profit, non-partisan entity, we do not endorse any political candidates but vigorously pursue policies and actions that protect the Island and New Jersey communities. The organization is led by Beach Haven resident Bob Stern, a Ph.D. engineer with experience in environmental law who previously managed the U.S. Department of Energy's office overseeing environment protection related to energy programs and projects. Visit SaveLBI.org to join the fight and consider making a donation.