

STOP Ocean Blasting Off Barnegat Bay – ALL MARINE LIFE AT RISK!

While many have been fighting to stop seismic testing for oil and gas exploration in the ocean, the public learned about a different ocean blasting study first proposed for the summer of 2014 off New Jersey's coast. Fortunately the study failed due to mechanical boat failure. Yet, despite last summer's strong public outrage, the study is back, proposed for the summer of 2015, the most ecologically sensitive time of year in the ocean.

A vast region off the Jersey Shore will be exposed to seismic airgun blasts and, in addition, two other acoustic blast technologies that may have harmful effects. The fourth piece of equipment is a fish locating device.

The purpose of the study is to assess deep sea sediments from 60 million years ago to present to better understand climate change and historical changes in sea level. However, the data gathered will be public information, which no doubt could be used by the oil and gas industry to look for hydrocarbon deposits.

Who is conducting the study? Funded by **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, researchers at Rutgers University are leading the study along with **Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO)** and **University of Texas**.

Location and duration: Just 15 miles off the Barnegat Inlet, NJ, in a 230 square mile area. The study will blast sound waves reaching 246 dB 1 μ Pa at 1 m, which is approximate to a [human standing 20 feet from a Saturn rocket at takeoff](#). The blasts will occur every 5 seconds continuously 24/7 for 30 days from June through August. These astonishingly loud blasts will be emitted from up to 4 guns firing at once. The impact will wreak havoc on marine life up and down the Jersey Shore.

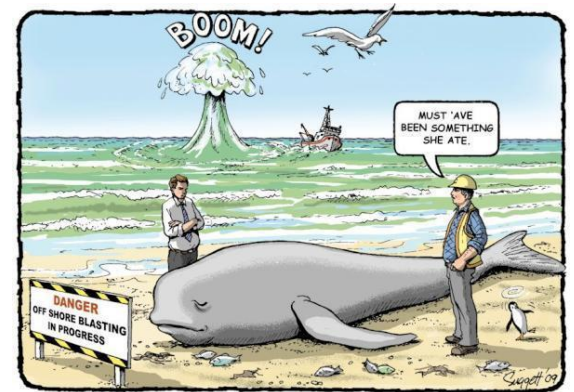
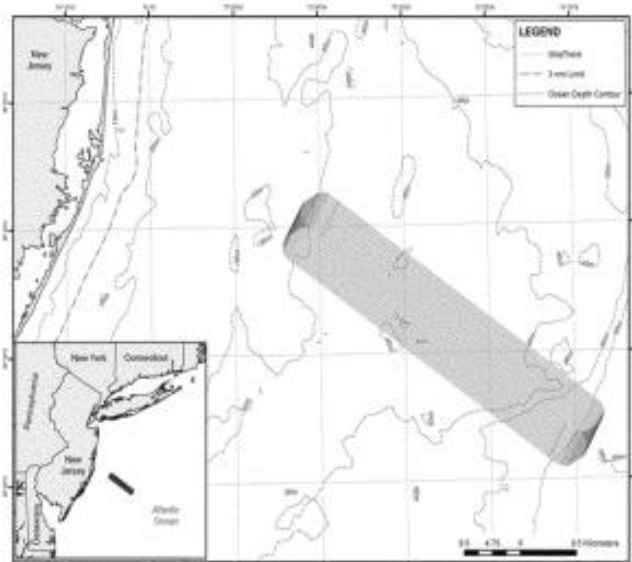


Figure 1. Proposed location of the seismic survey in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New Jersey during June through July 2014.



Harmful to marine fish: A 2003 study in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America confirmed that seismic airguns used in underwater oil exploration damage the auditory organs of fish. More studies are finding impacts of seismic testing and other acoustic technology range from harassment to death of fish and shellfish.

Harmful to marine mammals and turtles: Seismic blasts have documented effects on marine mammals. Over 32 species—as many as 18,547 individual mammals—will be harassed in this study, including 6 endangered whale species. Moreover, another device proposed for use in the study, the multibeam echosounder, is also harmful, particularly to marine mammals, and has been implicated in a mass stranding of whales off Madagascar. Also concerning is that five sea turtle species, all of which are either threatened or endangered, could be present in the survey area.

Science should not get a pass. The study still requires compliance with laws protecting marine life, and the [NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#) is opposed to the

harassment proposed by the study, and has declared that it is inconsistent the New Jersey's Coastal Zone Management Rules

This is the worst time for the study. The summer is the most critical time for marine life along the Jersey shore. Untold numbers of animals will be affected and livelihoods that depend on fishing, whale-watching, and tourism will be harmed.

You can help!

Sign the Petition: STOPRUTGERSOCEANBLASTING.ORG

Spread the word, or post the petition on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and your blogs!

To learn more: CleanOceanAction.org or call 732-872-0111