Clean Energy Opponents Are **Wrong About Whale Deaths**

"Conspiracy theory at sharp odds with science"

Read more about which clean energy opponents are spreading "**conspiracy theories**" about offshore wind in the media, and hear what the actual experts have to say:

AXIOS — Washington Whale Wars

- "[Congressman Jeff] Van Drew [R-NJ] said he is crafting a bill to ban offshore projects… inspired by an outcry from some environmentalists, fishermen and coastal towns about dead humpback and critically endangered right whales recently washing ashore."
- "Reality check: It's a conspiracy theory at sharp odds with science that won't manifest into a law anytime soon…[Van Drew's] anti-wind effort is rooted in a false premise."
- "Experts say there are many other reasons whales are vulnerable, including shipping vessels, fishing gear, climate change and whaling from more than a century ago."

NEW YORK TIMES — Why 23 Dead Whales Have Washed Up on the East Coast Since December

- "Some of the loudest voices drawing attention to the uptick in whale deaths are longtime opponents of offshore wind energy, who have found in the gruesome images of rotting whale carcasses a new 40-ton mascot…Over the last month… conservative talk-show hosts and dozens of Jersey Shore mayors have called for an immediate moratorium on wind-energy projects."
- "Several local groups have found common cause with national organizations, including the Caesar Rodney Institute, a right-leaning nonprofit that David T. Stevenson helps to lead."
  - 'If an emotional response is what it takes,' [Stevenson] said about concern for the whales, 'I'm not going to turn them down.'
- "Online pandemic buying habits are also fueling a record-setting surge in cargo shipments that last year made ports in New York and New Jersey the nation's busiest. Much of the merchandise is now toted on far bigger ships — some of which have altered their routes to help alleviate the supply-chain chaos that last year left some store shelves bare."
  - "As a result, more whales appear to have found themselves in the direct path of more ships."

USA TODAY

Whale Deaths Exploited In 'Cynical Disinformation' Campaign Against Offshore Wind Power, Advocates Say

- "A dozen New Jersey beach town mayors and several other groups now argue offshore wind power activity could be the cause of recent whale deaths and wind projects must be stopped while scientists investigate."
- "But those most vocal about their concern have been silent in recent years as whale strandings surged along the East Coast."
- "Experts point to the United Kingdom, which has 2,652 offshore wind turbines and where experts say autopsies have not found a connection between dead whales on their shores and the turbines off them."

YAHOO NEWS

Claims About Offshore Wind Farms Killing Whales Are Unsubstantiated, Scientists Say

- "To date, no whale mortality has been attributed to offshore wind activities," Lauren Gaches, a spokesperson for **NOAA Fisheries**, said in a late January media teleconference.
- "On Feb. 21, the **U.S. Marine Mammal Commission** provided an update, reiterating that "despite several reports in the media, there is no evidence to link these strandings to offshore wind energy development."

NEW JERSEY MONITOR

Wind And Whales: 'No Evidence' Links Projects To Deaths

- A news story on Feb. 13, "made strenuous attempts to link a dead right whale to Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project, which currently consists of two small test turbines about 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach."
- "However, according to several federal agencies and scientists, there's no connection between offshore wind development and what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calls an **"unusual mortality event" that's been afflicting whales up and down the East Coast, from Maine to Florida, since 2016, before the vast majority of Atlantic coast wind development began."**