

WHALES & WIND FARMS

THE SITUATION

Whales are washing up on East Coast beaches. Citing injury and death from vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declared an Unusual Mortality Event for Humpback Whales and North Atlantic Right Whales starting in 2016. But House Republicans are spreading disinformation, blaming offshore wind for whale deaths and calling for a pause on renewable energy development.

THE FACTS

- Experts at NOAA have found **no evidence** that offshore wind surveys cause whale injury or deaths. Unusual Mortality Events started years before offshore wind exploration.
- **Vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear** are the main drivers of human-caused whale strandings.
- **Climate change** is warming ocean waters, causing whales to follow their prey into new, more dangerous areas.
- **Transitioning from fossil fuels to offshore wind** will mitigate the effects of climate change on our oceans and marine wildlife.

DID YOU KNOW?



Big Oil is funding a [disinformation campaign](#), cherry-picking data to blame whale deaths on renewable energy development.

DEMOCRATS ARE TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT WHALES

- ✓ Enacting legislation to improve technology-based conservation of whales (in H.R. 7900 and H.R. 2617) and introducing legislation to protect whales from entanglements (H.R. 1213).
- ✓ Supporting President Biden's FY24 budget request to fund whale and environmental research at NOAA and thorough analysis, public input, and consultation for offshore wind at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM).
- ✓ Defending the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act, which require robust environmental review and public input for offshore wind development and mitigation.
- ✓ Securing \$1 billion in last year's historic Inflation Reduction Act to support federal environmental reviews and permitting offices.

REPUBLICANS ARE TAKING ACTIONS THAT HURT WHALES

- ✗ Passing H.R. 1, the Polluters Over People Act, which undermines the environmental review processes under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- ✗ Advancing legislation to gut bedrock environmental laws and greenlight oil and gas development and exploration, which hurts whales.
- ✗ Opposing stronger vessel speed rules, which help reduce a known, leading cause of whale deaths.
- ✗ Proposing cuts to NOAA and BOEM that would hinder whale and environmental research and robust environmental reviews.

WHAT SHOULD CONGRESS DO?

- Fund federal agencies to conduct robust environmental research and efficient, thorough reviews.
- Protect the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Support vessel speed rules and real time monitoring technology development to reduce vessel strikes.

