



*Dedicated to the Preservation
Of Beach Access for Mobile Surf Fishing and
The Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources since 1954*

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Jolie Harrison, Supervisor
Incidental Take Program
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

May 15, 2014

Dear Jolie Harrison,
Subject 0648-XD141

At this time, we, the members of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association oppose the use of Seismic Testing in the mapping of the under lying layers of the ocean floor off the coast of New Jersey. It is not because of the needed geological information that would be gathered, but because of the lack of planning of how this would affect the total ecological system of which the geological system is only a small part.

Even though surveys have been made off the coasts of Australia (the Northern Carnarvon Basin, Australian Northwest Shelf) and the Gulf of Mexico, no references have been given or found concerning the before and after observations on mammal, fish and plant life that can not avoid the repercussions from the impact of the sound waves.

If one refers to the *Sperm Whale Seismic Study in the Gulf of Mexico* prepared by Texas A&M University in 2008, only 17 sperm whales were studied. Even though through these 17 sperm whales some avoidance patterns were observed, no conclusive results could be established. Through statistical predictions a sampling size of n=75 should be used to establish any patterns.

One of the recommendations coming out of this report has called for a delay of the actual seismic testing for a number of years to allow for further data acquisition under controlled conditions of its affect on mammal, fish and plant life.

In a review entitled **A Review of the Impacts of Seismic Airgun Surveys on Marine Life** by Dr Lindy Weigart submitted in Feb of 2014 to the CBD Expert Workshop on Underwater Noise and its Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity,

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