

# New Jersey asks judge to block ocean blasting plan

July 4 2014, by Wayne Parry

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New Jersey environmental officials went to federal court Thursday trying to block a federally approved research plan that involves blasting the ocean floor off New Jersey with loud sound waves.

The state Department of Environmental Protection sought a court order to block the plan, which could begin as soon as next week.

No action was immediately taken on the state's request.

Rutgers University, the University of Texas and the National Science Foundation want to do research on sediments deposited on the [ocean floor](#) by changing [global sea levels](#) dating back 60 million years.

But environmentalists say the tests will harm dolphins, whales, turtles and other marine life.

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