

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 21-121

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK'S CONCERNS
ABOUT THE EXTENSIVE FISH KILL OF MENHADEN IN THE NAVESINK RIVER
AND REQUESTING INFORMATION AND FUNDING AND ACTION FROM THE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Red Bank (the "Borough") are deeply concerned about the extensive fish kill of menhaden occurring in the northern Monmouth County area, and particularly within the Navesink River; and

WHEREAS, over the last several weeks, the menhaden die-off has increased dramatically throughout the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, and has now spread to Hackensack River and Bayshore communities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough would have to expend substantial municipal resources to mitigate the noxious smells and difficult clean-up associated with a fish kill of such size; and

WHEREAS, through information provided by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (the "NJDEP"), the Borough understands that, at present, the best scientific explanation for the menhaden die-off is a fish-specific *Vibrio* bacterial infection; and

WHEREAS, the cause, extent, and magnitude of the die-off is deeply concerning and raising alarm in communities throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received calls and emails from many concerned citizens who are alarmed and looking for answers on this environmental problem; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is being careful to share only information provided by the NJDEP or other reputable scientific sources to reduce any misconceptions; and

WHEREAS, there are many questions for the short and long-term impacts, consequences, management and mitigation of this extensive fish kill of menhaden within the Navesink River; and

WHEREAS, driving the present uncertainty and public concern is the lack of answers, conflicting answers, and lack of proactive response to the ever-increasing dead menhaden on local communities' shorelines by State authorities; and

WHEREAS, there is growing concern and more information and direction is needed to help citizens and municipalities safely respond to this menhaden die-off, especially since the best current scientific information indicates that it may linger for months;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Red Bank that, with the utmost urgency:

- (1) The Borough calls upon the NJDEP to host a virtual town hall meeting to present the latest information on the fish kill of menhaden within the Navesink River, and to provide an opportunity for questions and answers for members of the public about this deeply concerning environmental situation; and
- (2) The Borough calls upon the State of New Jersey to provide immediate financial and/or operational support to all shoreline communities dealing with the increasing menhaden die-off along their respective waterfronts and beaches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the NJDEP, Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Monmouth County Board of Commissioners, and all Two Rivers municipalities.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin		X			
Councilwoman Triggiano	Motion	X			
Councilman Ballard		X			
Councilman Yngstrom		X			
Councilman Zipprich		X			
Councilwoman Horgan	Second	X			

Dated: April 28, 2021

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, at a meeting held on April 28, 2021.

Pamela Borghi

Pamela Borghi, Municipal Clerk