



For Immediate Release:

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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Responds to
Delaware Bay Oil Spill Cleanup Effort**

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is closely monitoring the response to the recent oil spill that has occurred in the Delaware Bay and is concerned about the impact the spill could have on sensitive ecosystems in the area. DRN has responded to several pollution hotline calls received from concerned residents pertaining to the spill and volunteer monitors are sharing photo documentation of spill impacts.

The oil spill, which was first spotted on October 19, has now impacted 60+ miles of shoreline, according to the Coast Guard, spanning from Big Stone Beach, DE to Ocean City, MD. The spill was first detected at Broadkill Beach, DE. These bay beaches and significant protected areas like Prime Hook National Wildlife refuge are home to important species such as shorebirds and spawning horseshoe crabs. The horseshoe crab is an imperiled keystone species that is critical to the health of the sensitive Delaware Bay ecosystem and horseshoe crab eggs provide food for endangered, migrating shorebirds as well as sea turtles and fish. People walking on the beach are being urged to stay out of the water and away from the wrack line where oiled debris continues to spread and wash up on every high tide. According to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the oily debris that has come ashore has forced the towns of Lewes, Dewey Beach and Bethany Beach to close their beaches until further notice.

“This oil spill incident is yet another example as to why we need to transition away from dirty fossil fuels,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.** “The fact that this oil spill has continued to expand and spread, with no responsible party yet identified or stepping up to claim responsibility, shows how quickly even a so-called ‘small’ spill can become devastating for our water and environments. It is essential we begin to phase out these dangerous energy sources that exacerbate climate change and harm sensitive ecosystems through multiple pathways. It is time we move to clean and renewable energy.”

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is greatly concerned about the short- and long-term environmental impact of the oil spill and will continue to monitor the situation and the cleanup response. Members of the public can reach Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s pollution hotline at 1-800-8DELAWARE.

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