

**East Coast opposition**

Currently, 129 East Coast municipalities and over 1,200 elected local, state and federal officials have formally opposed offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting. Numerous fishing and tourism interests, including local chambers of commerce, tourism and restaurant associations, and an alliance representing over 41,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families from Florida to Maine, also oppose oil exploration and development in the Atlantic.

Additionally, the New England, South and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Florida Defense Support Task Force have all expressed concerns about the compatibility of their activities with ongoing oil and gas operations.

Opposition to seismic airgun blasting and Atlantic drilling has been mounting for years, and the issue will continue to be significant for people along the East Coast. Especially since nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product rely on healthy ocean ecosystems, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.

*For more information, please visit:*

<http://usa.oceana.org/climate-and-energy/grassroots-opposition-atlantic-drilling-and-seismic-airgun-blasting>

**North Carolina municipalities and counties opposing seismic blasting and/or offshore drilling**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <a href="#">Atlantic Beach</a>                                       | 17. <a href="#">Kitty Hawk</a>                                     |
| 2. <a href="#">Bald Head Island</a>                                     | 18. <a href="#">Kure Beach</a>                                     |
| 3. <a href="#">Beaufort</a>   | 19. <a href="#">Manteo</a>   |
| 4. <a href="#">Belville</a>   | 20. <a href="#">Morehead City</a>                                  |
| 5. Carolina Beach: <a href="#">2/28/14</a> and <a href="#">10/13/15</a> | 21. Nags Head: <a href="#">4/2/14</a> and <a href="#">7/2/14</a>   |
| 6. <a href="#">Carolina Shores</a>                                      | 22. Oak Island: <a href="#">4/29/14</a> and <a href="#">9/8/15</a> |
| 7. <a href="#">Carrboro</a>   | 23. <a href="#">Ocean Isle</a>                                     |
| 8. Caswell Beach: <a href="#">3/31/14</a> and <a href="#">10/14/15</a>  | 24. <a href="#">Orange County</a>                                  |
| 9. <a href="#">Cedar Point</a>  | 25. Southport: <a href="#">5/8/14</a> and <a href="#">8/13/15</a>  |
| 10. <a href="#">Chapel Hill</a>   | 26. <a href="#">St. James</a>                                      |
| 11. <a href="#">Dare County</a> : renewed on <a href="#">4/6/15</a>     | 27. <a href="#">Sunset Beach</a>                                   |
| 12. <a href="#">Duck</a>  | 28. <a href="#">Surf City</a>                                      |
| 13. Emerald Isle: <a href="#">4/15/15</a> and <a href="#">10/13/15</a>  | 29. <a href="#">Swansboro</a>                                      |
| 14. <a href="#">Holden Beach</a>  | 30. <a href="#">Topsail Beach</a>                                  |
| 15. <a href="#">Holly Ridge</a>   | 31. <a href="#">Wilmington</a>                                     |
| 16. <a href="#">Kill Devil Hills</a>                                    | 32. <a href="#">Wrightsville Beach</a>                             |

**Congressional letters of opposition with North Carolina members**

- [U.S. Representatives Sanford \(SC-1\) and Connolly \(VA-11\)](#): sent bipartisan letter with 53 colleagues urging President Obama to halt consideration of G&G permits in the Atlantic 6/8/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [51 U.S. Representatives](#): sent letter to President Obama thanking the administration for removing the Atlantic from consideration in the five-year plan 4/25/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [36 U.S. Representatives](#): sent bipartisan letter to DOI asking to remove the Atlantic Ocean from the next five-year plan 2/11/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [U.S. Representatives Scott \(VA-3\) and Sanford \(SC-1\)](#): sent bipartisan letter with 31 colleagues to BOEM asking to halt seismic testing in the Atlantic 12/14/2015 (seismic blasting)
- [53 U.S. Representatives](#): Sent letter to DOI 3/9/2015 (offshore drilling)
- [7 Southeast U.S. Representatives](#): Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 8/1/2014
- [6 Southeast U.S. House of Representatives](#): Sent letter to DOI urging Secretary Jewell to "use extreme caution when considering any proposals to allow drilling off the Atlantic Coast" 5/24/2013
- [27 U.S. Representatives](#): Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 1/30/2013

**Opposition from North Carolina business interests**

- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to Interior Secretary Zinke on behalf of more than 41,000 businesses and 500,200 commercial fishing families, urging them not to reconsider the 2017-2022 plan, and opposing offshore drilling and seismic blasting 4/28/17
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to President Obama on behalf of more than 35,000 businesses and 500,200 commercial fishing families from Maine to Florida, urging him to permanently protect the Atlantic from offshore oil and gas drilling, and to deny all Atlantic seismic airgun blasting permits 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [66 East Coast businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 12/12/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to President Obama on behalf of more than 12,000 businesses and 400,000 commercial fishing families 10/27/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [280 East Coast Businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 2/3/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [360+ East Coast Businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 2/16/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [Outer Banks, NC Chamber of Commerce](#): Passed Resolution 7/7/2014 (offshore drilling)
- [Carteret County, NC Chamber of Commerce](#): Passed Resolution 9/5/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting); [Reaffirmed 4/25/2016](#) (seismic blasting)
- [Wrightsville Beach, NC Chamber of Commerce](#): Passed Resolution 10/28/2015
- [Carteret County, NC Tourism Development Authority](#): Passed Resolution 10/28/2015
- [New Hanover County, NC Tourism Development Authority](#): Passed Resolution 11/16/2015
- [Dare County, NC Tourism Board](#): Passed Resolution 4/24/2014 (seismic blasting); [Passed Resolution 6/19/2014](#) (offshore drilling)
- [Outer Banks, NC Home Builders Association](#): Passed Resolution 6/25/2015 (offshore drilling)
- [Outer Banks, NC Association of Realtors](#): Sent letter to BOEM 4/2/2015 (offshore drilling)

**Opposition from fishing groups in the Southeast United States**

- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): sent a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke expressing concerns with the risks posed by seismic surveys and oil and gas development to managed resources, fisheries and coastal communities along the Atlantic coast 4/25/2017

- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Updated and strengthened its policies to increase protection for fisheries and fish habitat from energy exploration and development activities for the species and areas the Council is charged with managing 12/14/2015
- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Sent letter to BOEM 4/30/2015 (seismic blasting)
- [Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association](#): Submitted comments to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Southeastern Fisheries Association](#): Sent letter to President Obama 12/3/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Southern Shrimp Alliance](#): Sent letter to BOEM opposing offshore oil exploration in the Atlantic 6/24/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [Snook and Gamefish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM opposing offshore oil exploration in the Atlantic 8/30/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [Billfish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/7/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [International Game Fish Association](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/1/2014 (seismic blasting)

### **Opposition from North Carolina elected officials and key stakeholders**

- [70 State Legislators led by Representatives Harrison and Jones, and Senators Campsen and Jackson](#): Sent letter to DOI 7/26/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [NC State Representative Pricey Harrison and 21 members of the NC General Assembly](#): Sent letter to President Obama 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [83 East Coast State Legislators, led by State Representative Pricey Harrison](#): Sent letter to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling)
- [95 state and local elected officials](#): Submitted letter to President Obama opposing seismic blasting on 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Queen Quet, Gullah Geechee Nation](#): Sent letter to President Obama 11/3/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Gullah/Geechee Nation, NC-SC-GA-FL](#): Passed 10/1/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [NC Council of Churches](#): Sent letter to President Obama 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [North Carolina Council of Churches](#): Adopted statement 3/1/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light](#): Sent letter to President Obama 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [28 leading marine biologists with specific expertise on the North Atlantic right whale](#): Submitted letter to President Obama to halt the permitting of oil and gas seismic surveys off the East Coast 4/14/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [75 Leading marine scientists](#): Sent letter to the President urging him "to reject the Interior Department's analysis and its decision to introduce seismic oil and gas surveys in the Atlantic," 3/5/2015 (seismic blasting)
- [100+ scientists](#): Sent letter to President Obama urging him to "wait on new science before permitting the use of seismic airguns in the Atlantic Ocean" 2/20/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Members of the Green Group](#): Sent letter to the U.S. Senate urging them to vote down Senate Bill 3110 sponsored by Senators Vitter and Cassidy 7/5/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [50+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter led by the Waterkeeper Alliance to President Obama urging him to permanently protect unleased U.S. waters from offshore drilling 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [30+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM urging them to redo or supplement the environmental impact statement for offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic 5/26/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [60+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM urging them to deny pending permits for seismic blasting now that the Atlantic has been removed from the five-year plan 4/28/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [48 state/regional conservation and civic groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM supporting their decision to remove the Atlantic from consideration for offshore drilling 4/11/2016 (offshore drilling)

- [163 conservation and animal rights groups](#): Submitted letter to President Obama opposing seismic blasting on 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)

### Editorials in North Carolina

- *Beaumont Enterprise*: [Seismic tests in Beaumont need firm controls](#)
- *Brunswick Beacon*: [County board should not support risky business](#)
- *Citizen Times*: [Tread carefully with offshore drilling plans](#)
- *Daily Advance*: [Our View- Coastal Communities Rising Up In Opposition To Drilling](#)
- *Fayetteville Observer*: [Our View: Halting offshore drilling plan a wise move](#)
- *Fayetteville Observer*: *Our View*: [Drill here? Maybe. Drill now? That's impossible](#)
- *Island Gazette*: [Kure Beach should reconsider stance on seismic testing and offshore drilling at Jan 19th Meeting](#)
- *News & Record*: [No drilling, for now](#)
- *News & Record*: [Dreams of drilling](#)
- *News & Record*: [In the offshore drilling debate, whose interests are spoken for?](#)
- *News & Observer*: [People's voice helped reverse plan for drilling off Atlantic coast](#)
- *News & Observer*: [Offshore drilling would threaten the NC coast](#)
- *Star News*: [Right decision on offshore drilling](#)
- *Star News*: [Be mindful of consequences of oil, gas exploration](#)
- *Star News*: [Keep drilling well offshore](#)
- *State Port Pilot*: [Too Many Unknowns](#)
- *State Port Pilot*: [You Can't Have Both](#)
- *The Appalachian*: [Oil drilling plan poses uncertainty, risks](#)
- *Tideland News*: [Cedar Point officials do right](#)
- *Times New*: [Offshore drilling Handle with care](#)