

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE?

SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

threatens coastal communities, economies, fisheries and marine mammals. More than 100 East Coast municipalities and thousands of business leaders have formally opposed seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic, sharing concerns from leading marine scientists, East Coast Fishery Management Councils and numerous fishing groups.

SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

is the first major step toward offshore drilling, which could further harm the marine environment through chronic oil leaks and spills, coastal industrialization, habitat destruction and carbon pollution.

SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

is just the beginning. Exploratory wells and rigs like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* are still needed to definitively confirm the presence of subsea oil and gas deposits.

#PROTECTOURCOAST

**FROM THESE DIRTY
AND DANGEROUS
ACTIVITIES!**

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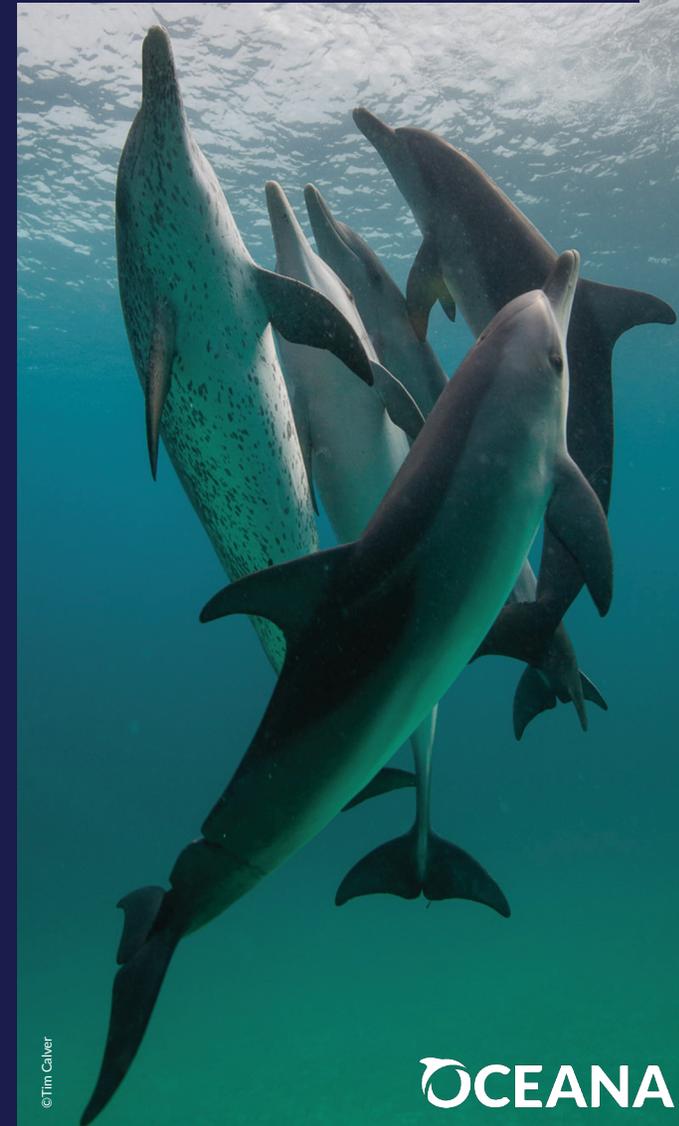
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SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

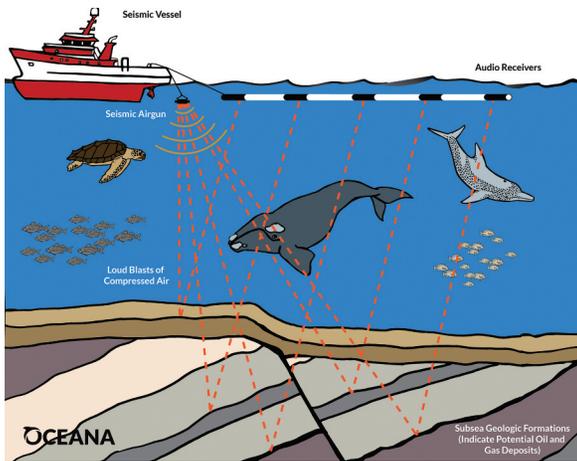
THE FACTS



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WHAT IS IT & HOW DOES IT WORK?

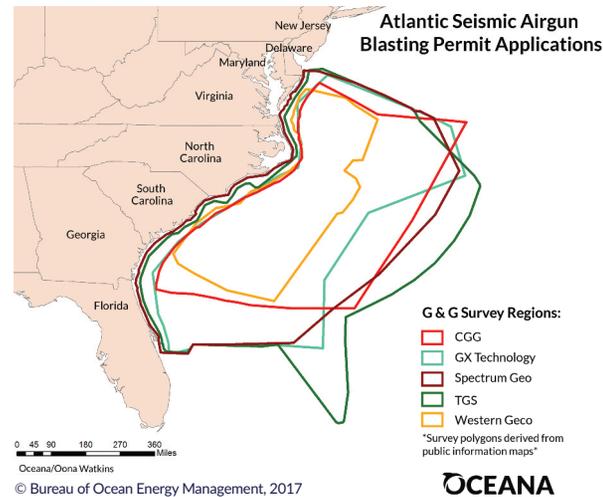


Seismic airgun blasting is an extremely loud and dangerous process used to search for potential oil and gas deposits deep below the seafloor. Geological and geophysical companies have applied for permits to conduct seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic, and would sell that information to interested oil and gas companies.

-  Seismic airguns shoot dynamite-like blasts of compressed air through the ocean and into the seafloor.
-  Sound waves travel back to the surface with information about the possible location of subsea oil and gas deposits.
-  The average seismic vessel tows 12-48 airguns in a single array.
-  The loud blasts are repeated every 10-12 seconds for weeks or months at a time.
-  Seismic airguns create one of the loudest sources of noise in the oceans.
-  Seismic airgun noise can be heard up to 2,500 miles from the source, approximately the distance of a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

WHERE IS IT BEING PROPOSED?

Seismic airgun blasting is being considered in an area twice the size of California, stretching from Delaware to Florida, but its impacts could be felt along the entire East Coast.



WHAT IS AT RISK?

Seismic airgun blasting is of special concern to marine life, including fish, turtles and whales, which depend on sound for communication and survival.

-  Offshore drilling and exploration along the Atlantic could put at risk some of the nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product that rely on healthy ocean ecosystems, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.
-  According to the government's own estimates, seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic could injure as many as 138,000 marine mammals like dolphins and whales, while disturbing the activities of millions more.

WHAT DO THE EXPERTS THINK?

All three East Coast Fishery Management Councils, as well as recreational fishing groups like The Billfish Foundation and The International Game Fish Association, have voiced significant concerns about the risks of seismic airgun blasting to fisheries resources.

On March 5, 2015, 75 leading marine scientists sent a letter to the government, urging them to reject seismic airgun blasting permits in the Atlantic Ocean.

"...the proposed seismic activity is likely to have significant, long-lasting, and widespread impacts on the reproduction and survival of fish and marine mammal populations in the region, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, of which only 500 remain. Opening the U.S. east coast to seismic airgun exploration poses an unacceptable risk of serious harm to marine life at the species and populations levels..."