

# CITY OF NORTH WILDWOOD

Cape May County, New Jersey

## RESOLUTION

### OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

**WHEREAS**, on January 8, 2018, the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced in the Federal Register Notice the release of their Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. BOEM is requesting public comment on the DPP as well as formal scoping for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the 2019-2024 Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of North Wildwood desire a healthy, thriving, and sustainable future for themselves, future generations, and our ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, this new draft proposed oil and gas leasing plan includes the entire Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Florida, **including the waters off New Jersey within 3 miles of beaches**, as well as including other ocean areas totaling some 90% of US ocean waters; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey boasts over 127 miles of beautiful ocean coastline and hundreds of miles of back-bays, estuaries, and other waterways connected to the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jersey Shore is essential to the health of our communities, environment and the thriving economy of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the physical, hydrodynamic, and biological characteristics of the ocean off the Jersey Shore are unique in the world, as more than 300 species of fish, nearly 350 species of birds, 5 species of sea turtles, and many marine mammals such as 20 species of whales and dolphins, 1 species of porpoise, and 4 species of seals, frequent this region. Nine endangered species, four of which are whales, can be found in these ocean waters, including the Atlantic Right Whale, one of the world's most endangered marine mammals. The region also serves as an essential migratory pathway for many of these species; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jersey Shore sustains the economy of the region with its bounty of natural resources and intrinsic values for millions of people through tourism. Tourism brings more than \$32 billion to NJ's economy each year and provides jobs to more than 500,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, recreational and commercial fisheries in NJ provide enormous economic benefits, including revenue, food production, and recreational activities. In 2014, recreational fishing supported nearly 20,000 jobs and resulted in \$2 billion of retail sales. Commercial fishing supports nearly 7,300 jobs and provides \$152 million in landings, not including restaurant and retail sales; and

**WHEREAS**, current estimates of the amount of technically recoverable oil off the entire Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida would only last the nation approximately 229 days, and the amount of technically recoverable gas would only last approximately 562 days; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas development causes substantial environmental impacts, including: (a) onshore damage due to infrastructure, (b) water pollution from drilling muds and the water brought-up from a well with oil and gas (called "produced waters"), (c) noise from seismic surveys, (d) air pollution, and (e) oil spills; and

**WHEREAS**, the harmful environmental consequences of offshore oil and gas exploration and development are serious and threatens the environmental and economic assets of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the BP Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico (2010) is clear evidence of the dangers associated with offshore drilling, including costing the lives of 11 people, devastating coastal economies and countless livelihoods, and killing countless marine animals, as well as continuing to cause harm to marine life as documented by a steady flow of studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal Administration officials are also weakening protections of ocean resources by undermining rules and regulations, cutting funding sources for spill response; and

**WHEREAS**, oil spills travel vast distances, and the Gulf Stream and Labrador Ocean Current all flow toward New Jersey making the region vulnerable to impacts from spills anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, within 5 days of the release of the DPP Governor Scott from Florida was able to convince Department of Interior Secretary Zinke to remove Florida from further consideration for drilling due to the importance of coastal tourism to that state, and New Jersey shares this same economic dependence on tourism and clean ocean economies; and



## Scott Jett

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**From:** Helen Henderson <Helen@littoralsociety.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:34 PM  
**Subject:** URGENT: Please Oppose Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling - Sample Resolution Attached  
**Attachments:** 2018\_SAMPLE MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASES.docx

**Importance:** High

As I am sure you are aware, in an unprecedented move, the Trump administration unveiled a proposal last week which could expose the entire US coast to economic and environmental catastrophe by permitting drilling in virtually all U.S. continental shelf waters, including protected areas of the Arctic and the Atlantic.

**The American Littoral Society respectfully requests that your municipality immediately pass a resolution OPPOSING the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. A sample resolution is attached for your convenience.**

COMMENTS on the proposal ARE DUE by MARCH 9, 2018.

Comments can be submitted electronically HERE

Or by US Mail to:

Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, BOEM, (VAM-LD) 45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop VAM-LD, Sterling, VA 20166-9216.

Please respond with your municipality's intent to pass this resolution as soon as possible and please also provide a copy of the authorized resolution to:

American Littoral Society, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 1  
Highlands, NJ 07732  
and/or to helen@littoralsociety.org

Additional information:

This is a radical plan that will increase the risk of disasters in all US coastal areas. In announcing the plan, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said: "Responsibly developing our energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a safe and well-regulated way is important to our economy and energy security, and it provides billions of dollars to fund the conservation of our coastlines, public lands and parks."

However, the drilling plan comes on the heels of a separate proposal to repeal offshore drilling safety regulations that were put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster. The decision to rollback those safety regulations, which came on Dec. 28, 2017, starkly indicates that only lip service will be paid to environmental, economic or human safety.

The US gulf coast is still recovering from damage done by the Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill, which dumped 215 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. Pollution from that event fouled beaches from Louisiana to Florida and is still affecting marine life in the area.

**This plan would expose the entire US coast to similar dangers and is an unacceptable risk to local communities, their coastal economies and marine life.**

According to the environmental organization Oceana, as of November 2017, 141 East Coast municipalities (11 from New Jersey...and now adding more!) and over 1,200 local, state and federal elected officials including the Governors of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, have formally opposed offshore drilling and/or seismic air gun 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 fishing families from Florida to Maine, also oppose oil exploration and/or development in the Atlantic. The South, Mid-Atlantic, and New England Fishery Management Councils have all expressed concerns about the risks posed by seismic surveys and oil and gas development to managed resources, fisheries and coastal communities along the Atlantic coast. Finally, NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Florida Defense Support Task Force have all expressed concerns about expanded offshore oil and gas development threatening their ability to perform critical activities.

The American Littoral Society stands with those around the United States who oppose this dangerous proposal and encourages our local officials take the stand that America's publicly owned waters should be conserved and protected, not turned over to the oil industry and the highest bidder.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have and I thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your desire to protect our ocean, coast, and your community!

Environmentally yours,

Helen Henderson

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Helen Henderson  
Ocean Program Manager  
American Littoral Society  
Cell: 732.546.2514  
[www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)  
*Empowering People to Care for the Coast*



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*SAMPLE RESOLUTION*

[Municipality]

**Resolution Opposing  
NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, on January 8, 2018, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced in the Federal Register notice the release of their Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. BOEM is requesting public comment on the DPP as well as formal scoping for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the 2019-2024 Program; and

**WHEREAS**, [Municipality] hereby acknowledges that the residents of [Municipality] desire a healthy, thriving, and sustainable future for themselves, future generations, and our ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, this new draft proposed oil and gas leasing plan includes the entire Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Florida, **including the waters off New Jersey within 3 miles of beaches**, as well as including other ocean areas totaling some 90% of US ocean waters; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey boasts over 127 miles of beautiful ocean coastline and hundreds of miles of back-bays, estuaries, and other waterways connected to the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jersey Shore is essential to the health of our communities, environment and the thriving economy of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the physical, hydrodynamic, and biological characteristics of the ocean off the Jersey Shore are unique in the world, as more than 300 species of fish, nearly 350 species of birds, 5 species of sea turtles, and many marine mammals such as 20 species of whales and dolphins, 1 species of porpoise, and 4 species of seals, frequent this region. Nine endangered species, four of which are whales, can be found in these ocean waters, including the Atlantic Right Whale, one of the world's most endangered marine mammals. The region also serves as an essential migratory pathway for many of these species; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jersey Shore sustains the economy of the region with its bounty of natural resources and intrinsic values for millions of people through tourism. Tourism brings more than \$32 billion to NJ's economy each year and provides jobs to more than 500,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, recreational and commercial fisheries in NJ provide enormous economic benefits, including revenue, food production, and recreational activities. In 2014, recreational fishing supported nearly 20,000 jobs and resulted in \$2 billion of retail sales. Commercial fishing supports nearly 7,300 jobs and provides \$152 million in landings, not including restaurant and retail sales; and

**WHEREAS**, current estimates of the amount of technically recoverable oil off the entire Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida would only last the nation approximately 229 days, and the amount of technically recoverable gas would only last approximately 562 days; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas development, causes substantial environmental impacts, including: (a) onshore damage due to infrastructure, (b) water pollution from drilling muds and the water brought-up from a well with oil and gas (called "produced waters"), (c) noise from seismic surveys, (d) air pollution, and (e) oil spills; and

**WHEREAS**, the harmful environmental consequences of offshore oil and gas exploration and development are serious and threatens the environmental and economic assets of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, The BP Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico (2010) is clear evidence of the dangers associated with offshore drilling, including costing the lives of 11 people, devastating coastal economies and countless livelihoods, and killing countless marine animals, as well as continuing to cause harm to marine life as documented by a steady flow of studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal Administration officials are also weakening protections of ocean resources by undermining rules and regulations, cutting funding sources for spill response; and

**WHEREAS**, oil spills travel vast distances, and the Gulf Stream and Labrador Ocean Current all flow toward New Jersey making the region vulnerable to impacts from spills anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, within 5 days of the release of the DPP Governor Scott from Florida was able to convince Department of Interior Secretary Zinke to **remove Florida from further consideration for drilling due to the importance of coastal tourism to that state and NJ shares this same economic dependence on tourism and clean ocean economies**; and

**WHEREAS**, bi-partisan opposition against drilling off the New Jersey coast has included every Governor since 1985, and a majority of the congressional delegation and most coastal towns; and

**WHEREAS**, in the January 8, 2018, BOEM Federal Register to requests comments on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) and scoping comments for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Study; and

**WHEREAS**, energy conservation and efficiency measures can significantly reduce the nation's need to explore and drill for nonrenewable resources, such as oil and natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, coastal municipalities have a profound interest in maintaining strong federal protections for our nation's coastal environment, as well as the economic and social benefits it supports;

**WHEREAS**, as elected representatives of [Municipality], we have a significant responsibility to provide leadership which will seek to protect our coastal economy and a healthy ocean to strengthen our New Jersey coast and ocean:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this date (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)

(MUNICIPALITY/ GOVERNING BODY) hereby opposes offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling activities that would affect the coast of New Jersey, and calls upon **Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke** who oversees the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to withdraw New Jersey and the entire Atlantic Ocean from consideration for the offshore oil and gas exploration, development, or drilling.

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_