



**Resolution 2015-07 in Opposition to Offshore Drilling Exploration and Activities  
off of the North Carolina Coast**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of the Interior includes the waters off North Carolina in their proposed exploration and development of offshore oil and gas off of the Atlantic Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort's tourism based economy, fishing industry and quality of life depends on the health and welfare of our natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, many of Beaufort's surrounding natural areas provide sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, whales, fish and other forms of wild life; and

**WHEREAS**, because the most generous estimates of the oil located in the mid-Atlantic leasing area are inconsequential when compared to global supplies, drilling off the North Carolina coast will have no significant impact on energy prices; and

**WHEREAS**, even a complete harvesting of all of the oil and natural gas resources in the mid-Atlantic leasing area would do nothing to reduce our nation's dependency on foreign oil; and

**WHEREAS**, the inherent risks to our region from off-shore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm our natural environment, our economic wellbeing, and our overall quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no revenue sharing arrangements in place that would compensate North Carolina coastal communities for the environmental risks taken in pursuit of offshore oil and natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, barring proven gross negligence, the cap for damages in the event of an accident sits at \$75 million; and

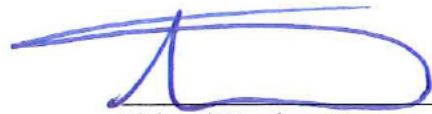
**WHEREAS**, the estimated revenues from off-shore exploration and mining of oil and natural gas fall far below the anticipated growth of revenues directly related to North Carolina's tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Beaufort had previously submitted official comments to the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management in opposition to exploration and drilling in the mid-Atlantic; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Beaufort stands with numerous other coastal North Carolina municipalities in their pursuit of shoreline protection and preservation


Now, **THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF BEAUFORT** formally opposes exploration, including seismic testing, and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina.

**ADOPTED,** this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015.



Richard Stanley, Mayor

Attest:

  
Jennifer Allen, Town Clerk