

MOREHEAD CITY
NORTH CAROLINA

Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor



COUNCIL

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David S. Whitlow
City Manager

**Town of Morehead City
Resolution 2015-36
In Opposition of Offshore Drilling Activities and Related Seismic Blasting
Activities off the North Carolina Coast**

WHEREAS, the following was introduced by a group of Concerned Citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has proposed the inclusion of the North Carolina coast and Carteret County's Crystal Coast in their proposal for exploration and development of offshore oil and gas off the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, seismic air guns-fire intense blasts of compressed air are considered to be one of the loudest man made sounds in the ocean; and

WHEREAS, these seismic blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the future; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and the transportation of offshore oil and gas resources poses significant economic and environmental risks; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose specific threats for the offshore marine ecosystems as well as the coastal and river wetland areas of Morehead City and Carteret County, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for our recreational and commercially important fisheries and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical habitat, as well as commercial and recreational fishing are critical economic and quality of life drivers for Morehead City and Carteret County; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the economic backbone of Morehead City and Carteret County and that offshore drilling activities and the potential for oil spills on our coastline poses a significant threat to our thriving tourism and the Carteret County tax base; and

WHEREAS, one oil spill could potentially devastate Carteret County and Morehead City's economic engine and tax base; and

WHEREAS, Carteret County and Morehead City endeavors to be a good steward of our coastal environment and its resources; and

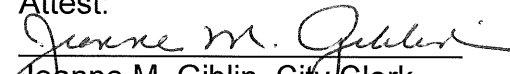
WHEREAS, it has been requested by area residents and local advocacy organizations that Morehead City and Carteret County leadership lend its voice to this critical issue facing our Crystal Coast and share this information with Governor McCrory; and

WHEREAS, Carteret County stands with other coastal North Carolina municipalities in their pursuit of shoreline protection;

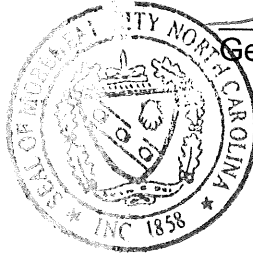
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morehead City Town Council of Carteret County, North Carolina, is opposed to offshore oil and gas development and drilling and related seismic blasting activities off the North Carolina coast.


ADOPTED, this the 11th day of August, 2015.

Attest:



Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk





Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor