



**Town of Southampton
Long Island, NY**

Adopted
Aug 22, 2017 6:00 PM

**Town Board Resolution
RES-2017-793**

Memorializing Resolution In Opposition to Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Exploration Activities, Including Seismic Airgun Blasting

Information

Department:	Town Attorney	Sponsors:	Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, Councilman John Bouvier
Category:	Miscellaneous	Functions:	None

Financial Impact

None; see resolution text.

Body

WHEREAS, in New York hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state’s gross domestic product depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of New York’s ocean wealth stems from our tourism and recreation sector, which benefits from a healthy ocean and coast; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of New York’s coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss, storm surge, and sea level rise impacts; and

WHEREAS, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Atlantic coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the current Administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like squid, lobster, and scallops; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southampton recognizes that our communities, businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners, and visitors alike; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Southampton hereby finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and thus, the Town Board opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this Memorializing Resolution to New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Representative Lee Zeldin, New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, and New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

Meeting History

Aug 22, 2017 6:00 PM Video **Town Board** **Regular Town Board Meeting**

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jay Schneiderman, Supervisor
SECONDER: John Bouvier, Councilman
AYES: Jay Schneiderman, Julie Lofstad, Christine Preston Scalera, John Bouvier, Stan Glinka

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