

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH,  
FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN TESTING IN  
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Atlantic Beach, Florida wishes to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-gun testing is being proposed for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the Atlantic coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of air-guns to conduct these seismic tests threatens to harm and possibly kill fish populations, profitable fisheries and marine mammals, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale whose population stands at 500 whales in the entire world; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, almost as loud as explosives, at a rate of every one to twelve seconds, twenty-four hours a day for days and weeks on end. The seismic air-gun blasts can be heard for hundreds of miles in the ocean and may drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, seismic air-guns may cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast; and

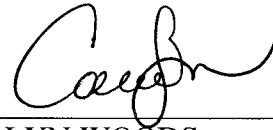
**WHEREAS**, tourism is a major economic force in the City of Atlantic Beach and offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources and, should a

spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the foreseeable future; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH, FLORIDA** opposes seismic air-gun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast because we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.


This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage and adoption.

**DULY ADOPTED AND PASSED** during a regular meeting by the Atlantic Beach City Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014.



CAROLYN WOODS,  
Mayor, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



DONNA L. BARTLE,  
City Clerk