RESOLUTION NO. 2014-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Cocoa Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources, and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a major economic force in the City of Cocoa 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

WHEREAS, and the State of Florida has a long history of hurricanes and offshore drilling would increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of the coastal waters to severe weather; and

WHEREAS, the use of airguns to conduct these seismic tests threatens fish populations and profitable fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic airgun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals, sea turtles and fish including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale whose population stands at 500 individuals in the entire world, and

WHEREAS, the seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air – almost as loud as explosives every 10-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end. These loud airgun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic airgun 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.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCOA BEACH; BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, opposes seismic airgun 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 as we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Obama.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Malik and Seconded by Commissioner Tumulty this Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Cocoa Beach, Florida, held on the 3rd day of April, 2014.

ATTEST:  

Assistant to the City Clerk

Loresdara Kalaghchy, MMC

City Clerk

David Netterstrom, Mayor-Commissioner