

Resolution Opposing Seismic Air-gun Testing In The Atlantic Ocean

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-gun 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 the major economic force in the Town of Edisto 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, the seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. The dynamite-like blasts occur every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time. Seismic air-guns are loud enough to kill small animals like fish eggs and larvae at close ranges and can disrupt the behavior of large animals like dolphins and whales from up to 100 miles away; and

WHEREAS, these blasts have been associated with shifting soil resulting in structural damage; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach believes that more research should be done to fully understand all impacts of seismic testing and options for mitigating those impacts; and

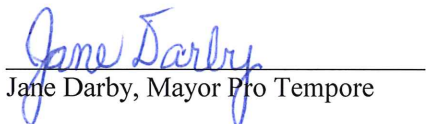
WHEREAS, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources, which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast.

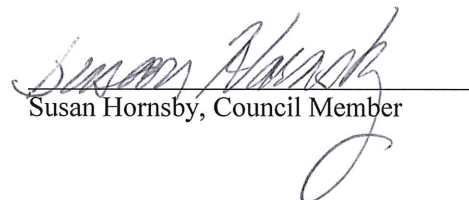
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that The Town Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina is opposed to seismic air-gun testing and urges the BOEM to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast as we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

SIGNED, SEALED AND ADOPTED BY Town Council this 8th day of May, 2014.


Burley L. Lyons, Mayor


Pete Anderson, Council Member


Jane Darby, Mayor Pro Tempore


Susan Hornsby, Council Member


Patti Smyer, Council Member