

RESOLUTION 2014-168

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

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fernandina 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 Fernandina 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.

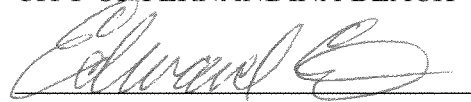
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Commission opposes seismic air-gun testing and urges President Obama'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.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of December, 2014.

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH



Edward E. Boner

Commissioner - Mayor

ATTEST:



Caroline Best

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



Tammi E. Bach

City Attorney

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

SUBJECT: Resolution 2014-168
Seismic Air Gun Testing

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

ATTACHMENTS: ___ Ordinance X Resolution
 ___ Support Documents ___ Other

RECOMMENDED ACTION: At the pleasure of the City Commission

SUMMARY: Tourism is a major part of the economy of the City of Fernandina Beach and offshore drilling has the potential to be a major threat to our coastal economy. Seismic air gun testing negatively affects ocean life. Furthermore, seismic air gun testing would damage the quality of life for both residents and visitors for the foreseeable future.

Ms. Erin Handy of Oceana will provide a brief presentation regarding the effects of seismic air gun testing. This item is placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Miller.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: No additional comments.

DEPARTMENT HEAD	Submitted by: Joe Gerrity City Manager	Date: 11/17/14
	Requested Agenda	Date: 12/2/14
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	Approved as to Budget Requirements	Date: N/A
CITY ATTORNEY	Approved as to Form and Legality <i>TJB</i>	Date: 11/18/14
CITY MANAGER	Approved Agenda Item for 12/2/14 <i>Joe G</i>	Date: 11/17/14

COMMISSION ACTION: Approved As Recommended ___ Disapproved
 ___ Approved With Modification ___ Postponed to Time Certain
 ___ Other ___ Tabled

Approved for the City Commission Meeting
Regular Meeting
Held on: 5/10/14
Voted: 5-0 Initial: *JTB*