

RESOLUTION NO. 953

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SATELLITE BEACH, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Satellite Beach is located on the Atlantic Coast of Florida and endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, residents have an expectation of a quality of life tied to that environment, and have demonstrated their concern for our environment in the City of Satellite Beach; 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, offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal community and natural resources, and should a spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy and the City's redevelopment efforts would be severely damaged, and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively impacted for years after any such event; and

WHEREAS, South Brevard County is the largest nesting area in the United States for threatened loggerhead turtles and endangered green turtles; 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 and fish including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, which are almost as loud as explosives, every 10-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end; and

WHEREAS, these seismic 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; and at shorter distances, these seismic airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impact to marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast, including Satellite Beach; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Satellite Beach, Brevard County, 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Obama.

THIS RESOLUTION shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting the City Council of the City of Satellite Beach, Florida, the 5th day of November, 2014.



FRANK P. CATINO, MAYOR

ATTEST:



LEONOR OLEXA, CMC, CITY CLERK