



CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposes seismic airgun testing along 403 miles of the Atlantic Ocean (encompassing 350,000 square miles) from Delaware Bay to Florida's Cape Canaveral; and+

WHEREAS, seismic airgun testing involves extremely loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed tests will cause destructive impacts to marine wildlife, coastal ecosystems and coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the BOEM acknowledges that seismic airgun testing will negatively impact the already critically-endangered Right Whales and result in the death, deafening, and disruption of all marine species (e.g. dolphins and sea turtles); and


WHEREAS, the estimated impacts to fisheries and commercial fishing possess the potential to cause irreparable harm to fishing economies; and

WHEREAS, because of the enormous distances sound can travel in the ocean, the dangerous noise from this activity cannot remotely be confined to the waters off individual states that encourage it. Some impacts — particularly on the great baleen whales — would extend many hundreds of miles, affecting states as far north as New England. Fish and fisheries could be affected for tens of miles around every seismic ship; and

WHEREAS, the estimated oil reserves in the testing area have not been proven sufficient to offset the potential destruction of oil spills along the Atlantic coast - the proven off-shore Atlantic reserves would be the equivalent of just over seven years' of Gulf oil.


Now, Therefore, I Jason Buelterman, Mayor of Tybee Island, Georgia do hereby proclaim the City of Tybee Island, Georgia is firmly opposed to seismic airgun testing along the Atlantic coast.

In Witness Whereof, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Tybee Island, Georgia to be affixed this 15th day of January 2015.



Jason Buelterman, Mayor

Attest:



Janet LeViner, Clerk of Council