



Florida Oceanographic Society

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Resolution

WHEREAS, congressional legislation and executive orders have prohibited offshore oil and gas drilling since 1982; and

WHEREAS, an executive order was signed on April 28, 2017 that puts at risk coastal waters off the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean, Florida's Gulf Coast, and the Arctic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior's proposed draft 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program includes expanding future oil and gas leases in the Atlantic and Florida's Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, Florida Amendment 9, banning offshore drilling for oil and natural gas on lands beneath all state waters, was approved on November 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling accidents can cause long-term contamination and damage to precious coastal ecosystems and the health and welfare of people and economies in the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, the impact from these accidents, due to the nature of the Gulf Loop Current, can create devastating damage to both wildlife and the natural habitat of thousands of species on both coasts of Florida and the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, Florida has over 8,500 miles of tidal shoreline vulnerable to environmental damage, and in some cases, an inability to recover naturally from such damage; and

WHEREAS, the potential amount of oil that can be drilled from these reserves is only a small percentage of the overall US oil production and would expect to have only a minimum impact on oil production and prices; and

WHEREAS, use of seismic activities for oil and gas exploration create harm for marine mammals and other ocean and coastal species; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Florida Oceanographic Society is to inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education, research and advocacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Florida Oceanographic Society supports the continuation of the federal moratorium on offshore drilling of the Eastern Gulf and South Atlantic regions to protect coastlines in Florida.
2. Florida Oceanographic Society urges the Florida State Legislature, and Federal Congressional Representatives to maintain the moratorium on offshore drilling.
3. Florida Oceanographic Society opposes use of seismic activities for oil and gas exploration in the ocean and coastal waters that can be harmful for marine life.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Board Chair of Florida Oceanographic Society authorizes and forwards this Resolution on behalf of Florida Oceanographic Society by signature below:

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 22nd DAY OF MAY, 2019.

Allen Herskowitz, Chair, Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society

Mark Perry, Executive Director, Witness
Florida Oceanographic Society

To inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education, research and advocacy.

