

RESOLUTION 19-04

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY

RE: A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF  
ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH'S OPPOSITION TO  
OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING  
SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

The City Commission of St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County, Florida, in the regular meeting duly assembled on April 29, 2019, resolves as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for week to months on end that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage; and

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine Beach recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major

economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and


**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine Beach recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County, Florida offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

**RESOLVED AND DONE**, this 29th day of April, 2019, by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County, Florida.

  
Undine C. George, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Max Royle, City Manager