



Where imagination runs free

**STATEMENT OPPOSING
OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF OIL AND GAS**

The Crystal Coast is a thriving tourism destination in Carteret County fronting on the Atlantic Ocean and Bogue Sound along North Carolina's central coast.

As stated in Session Law 2007-112 of the General Assembly of North Carolina, the mission of the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority (the "TDA") is to "manage the promotion and development of tourism in Carteret County."

The Crystal Coast is fortunate to enjoy a pristine coastal environment that draws visitors from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, to visit the undisturbed wilderness area of Cape Lookout National Seashore, and to explore the sounds, marshes, wetlands, estuaries, rivers, creeks and streams that abound in Carteret County. Our coastal waters are prime recreational fisheries that are responsible for our area's reputation as one of the premier sport fishing destinations in the world, a reputation that brings thousands of visitors to the Crystal Coast each year.

The TDA understands the importance of energy independence for our nation. Although there is no current method for revenue sharing with State and local governments, the TDA is also aware that if significant changes are made to Federal and State law, our local communities may eventually share in any revenue generated by offshore energy production. These issues, however, are outside the scope of the mission of the TDA.

Our mission is to promote travel and tourism in Carteret County. The inherent environmental risks in offshore exploration and production of oil and gas are at odds with our mission. This offshore exploration and production has the potential to irrevocably harm the pristine coastal environment mentioned above. Without this undamaged natural environment, our thriving tourism based economy would not exist. As such, the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority joins numerous other coastal organizations and governments in expressing our opposition to the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina.

This the 12th day of November, 2015.


A. B. Cooper, III, Chairman
Carteret County Tourism Development Authority