

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY SUPPORTING GEORGIA'S COASTAL  
TOURISM AND FISHERIES AS ECONOMIC DRIVERS AND OPPOSING  
SEISMIC TESTING OFF OF GEORGIA'S COAST**

WHEREAS, Georgia's fishing and tourism industries and the state's economy are dependent on healthy natural environments and safe ocean systems along the Georgia coast; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's coast supports a significant fishing and tourism industry, which benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross domestic product (GDP); and

WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of local fisheries; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil pose the risk of spills that could adversely affect coastal Georgia's Floridan Aquifer system used as a primary source of drinking water in coastal Georgia; 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 pristine destinations on Georgia's Coasts, the which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, Garden City 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 Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, Garden City endeavors to be a good steward of the State and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, more than 140 of Georgia's towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have passed official resolutions against Atlantic oil drilling and seismic testing, including the city of Savannah, Tybee Island, Brunswick, St. Mary's, Kingsland, Hinesville, the city of Atlanta, the Town of Thunderbolt, Richmond Hill, and Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Georgia citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Garden City hereby express its opposition to these potential activities and practices off Georgia's coast.

Unanimously adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2019 at the Regular Meeting of the City of Garden City Council.

Signed: Don Bethune

Don Bethune  
Mayor, City of Garden City

Date: February 4, 2019

ATTESTED: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles

Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council