FLORIDA SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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December 5, 2025

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Matthew Giacona,

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Shellfish Aquaculture Association (FSAA), which represents over 350 shellfish farmers throughout Florida. We wish to express our opposition to the BOEM's proposed five year plan which includes opening up drilling in new areas off the coast of Florida.

This proposal poses a significant threat to the livelihood of our members who depend on clean water to grow clams and oysters for commercial production contributing over $44 million to our state's economy.

Our country faces a $20+ billion seafood trade deficit. Adding more oil rigs off our coasts will not solve that problem but investing in domestic seafood production through aquaculture right here at home will. We look forward to working with you to enhance and support domestic production as outlined in President Trump's *Executive Order 14276: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness*.

We recognize here in Florida the environment and economy are inextricably linked. Our industry demonstrates how economies thrive when our natural resources are protected.

We ask that the moratorium preventing offshore drilling off the coast of Florida remain in effect.

Sincerely,

Adrianne Johnson

Adrianne Johnson
Executive Director, Florida Shellfish Aquaculture Association