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Comment from Waterboyz

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Jan 24, 2026

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Comment

11th National OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Federal Register Notice (comment deadline is January 23, 2026)

December 16th, 2025

RE: Opposition to New Lease Sales in the Draft Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program from Florida Resident

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 11th National OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program. As a lifelong Florida resident, I am concerned about the effect drilling in the Eastern Gulf will have on my quality of life, as I enjoy going to the beach, walking along Tampa Bay, and watching dolphins play. These experiences, which make Florida such a wonderful place to live, will be affected by drilling close to Florida. I depend on a clean and healthy coastal environment, so I write to express my strong opposition to new oil and gas lease sales in the next 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Specifically, I ask that you protect the Eastern Gulf from new oil and gas development.

Firstly, I am opposed to the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program because it fails to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement, or complete an environmental review disclosing potential harms to the public before proceeding with offshore oil sales. I feel vulnerable to the myriad risks associated with oil drilling, especially without environmental review. Further, I am opposed to the opening of lease sales for the Eastern Gulf as it opens leasing only 100 miles from the coast of Florida, reducing the previous boundary of 250 miles. The territory is only 100 miles from the coast of Florida and only 3 nautical miles outside state jurisdiction, which guarantees “to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty” and prevents “drilling for exploration or extraction of oil or natural gas” in our State Constitution

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Article II Section 7.

The protection of the Eastern Gulf is incredibly important, as it serves as a refuge for marine wildlife from constant noise and pollution of offshore rigs and provides a buffer zone protecting Florida's coast and economy from regular spills and catastrophes like Deepwater Horizon in 2010. Further, offshore oil drilling comes with significant environmental, public health, and economic risk. Environmentally, drilling increases the rate of oil spills, disrupts food chains, and contributes to cumulative effects of climate change. Economically, subsequent pollution and downstream effects will threaten Florida's dominant tourism industry, which filed $1.5 billion in lost earning claims after Deepwater Horizon. Finally, air pollution from drilling contributes to a public health risk, with air pollution from fossil fuels being responsible for 13% of total deaths in people aged 14 and older in the US.

Maintain the moratorium articulated in President Trump's 2020 Memorandum on the Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition, which proposed a moratorium on "any leasing for purposes of exploration, development, or production" off the coasts of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina until June 30, 2032.

"Program Area B," being only 100 miles off the coast of Florida, puts our people, ecosystems, and economy at risk. Do not proceed with the 2029 and 2030 lease sales.

In conclusion, this plan threatens what I love about my home, and makes me, my family, and my community vulnerable to pollution and climate change. Therefore, I advocate for the cancellation of "Program Area B," lease sales in 2029 and 2030.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Sincerely,
Sean fell

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