

RESOLUTION 2015-09

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND SC'S OPPOSITION  
TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid-Atlantic Ocean to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas including risky methods, such as seismic blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like air gun blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and,

**WHEREAS**, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM, or the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and,

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

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

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to coastal wetlands surrounding James Island, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of James Island, a South Carolina municipality and sea island of Charleston County, is located in close proximity to Folly Beach and peninsular Charleston where a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the residents of James Island enjoy, enabling business recruitment and attracting new residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of James Island endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of James Island believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing and the options for mitigating those impacts before exploration begins,

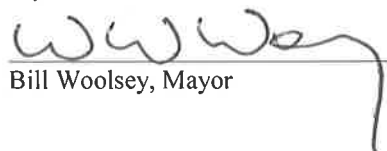
**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is hosting public meetings, currently soliciting input concerning this issue by March 30, 2015, and strongly urging public participation in this process,


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF JAMES ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

**Section 1:** That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made part of this reference;

**Section 2:** That the Town of James Island is Opposed to Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling Activities off the South Carolina coast;

**Section 3:** This Resolution to become effective upon its adoption and approval. Enacted this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.

  
Bill Woolsey, Mayor

ATTEST  
  
Frances Simmons, Town Clerk