

**OFFSHORE
OIL DRILLING
ACTIVIST TOOLKIT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND

NOT THE ANSWER CAMPAIGN FRAMEWORK	3
FACT SHEET ON OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING	4

2. RAISE AWARENESS

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES, GRAPHICS, AND SAMPLE LANGUAGE	15
--	----

3. DIRECT ADVOCACY

SAMPLE DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR LOBBY EVENTS	19
---	----

4. GENERATE MEDIA

TIPS FOR WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR	21
OP-ED TEMPLATE: STOP NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING	21
DRAFT OP-ED REQUEST TO CO-AUTHOR WITH CONGRESS	22
EVENT/RALLY MEDIA ADVISORY TEMPLATE	24

5. BUILD COALITIONS

OFFSHORE DRILLING BUSINESS PETITION	24
BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH A COALITION	25

6. PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

EMAIL REQUEST TEMPLATE TO SEND TO LOCAL DECISION MAKERS	26
CITY RESOLUTION LANGUAGE TO SEND TO LOCAL DECISION MAKERS	27

7. OTHER RESOURCES

EMAIL REQUEST TEMPLATE TO SEND TO LOCAL DECISION MAKERS	29
---	----



1. BACKGROUND

Not the Answer Campaign Framework

CAMPAIGN GOAL: Stop the expansion of offshore oil drilling into the Atlantic, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Arctic

OBJECTIVES:

- a) Prevent leasing of new areas in the revised 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program
- b) Defeat federal legislation to expand offshore drilling in U.S waters
- c) Ensure denial of seismic permit applications by Department of Interior (DOI)

KEY TARGETS: DOI, Congress, and Governors

CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES:

1. **RAISE AWARENESS:** educate on offshore threat and ways to take action
 - Host chapter events/ public outreach
 - Help coordinate and host Hands Across the Sand events: May 20th
 - Utilize website, social media, email, and video for outreach
2. **DIRECT ADVOCACY:** communicate directly with decision makers
 - Post action alerts to DOI and Congress
 - Send Chapter letters to Federal Reps and Governors
 - Provide written and public testimony to DOI
 - Attend Blue Vision Summit (May 2017) and D.C. Lobby Day (Feb 2018)
3. **GENERATE MEDIA:** generate coverage in print and online outlets
 - Submit op-eds to media outlets (sample here)
 - Submit letters to editor (LTEs) in response to articles
 - Provide HQ and chapter media releases
4. **BUILD COALITIONS:** organize opposition from the coastal recreation industry
 - Continue to add recreational businesses to coalition
 - Engage businesses in campaign activities
 - Coordinate with NGO partners
5. **PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS:** demonstrate opposition
 - Outreach to local reps to educate on the issue
 - Organize turnout for city council meetings



Fact Sheet on Offshore Oil Drilling

For decades, U.S. coastlines were protected from the expansion of offshore oil drilling by a federal moratorium that enjoyed bipartisan support. Unfortunately, circumstances changed in 2008 when President George W. Bush lifted the White House moratorium and Congress followed suit by allowing a federal ban on new drilling to expire. Since then, federal leaders have made numerous proposals to expand offshore drilling to new regions.

In 2016, the Obama administration finalized a 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 that protects the Atlantic, Pacific, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and Arctic from new offshore drilling lease sales. This decision was informed by years of scientific assessment and public input, and lauded as a major victory for the ocean environment and coastal communities. However, in 2018, the Trump administration was quick to renege on the approved 5-year leasing program, and announced plans to expand offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Arctic Ocean. This drastic proposal opens over 90% of the Outer Continental Shelf to new drilling and puts our nation's coastal communities, beaches, surf breaks, and marine ecosystems at risk of a catastrophic oil spill.

The Surfrider Foundation is opposed to offshore oil drilling in new areas. Our nation's ocean, waves and beaches are vital recreational, economic and ecological treasures that will be polluted by an expansion of offshore oil drilling. Instead of advocating for transient and environmentally harmful ways to meet America's oil needs, we should seek a comprehensive and environmentally sustainable energy plan that includes energy conservation.

Offshore oil drilling and oil spills have the potential to critically impact pristine marine ecosystems and lead to the industrialization of our coastlines. While there are numerous environmental problems associated with oil drilling, there are also negative economic impacts that we simply cannot afford. This Fact Sheet is intended to outline potential impacts of offshore oil drilling, and dispel myths that have been put forth by oil drilling proponents.



Ultimately, America cannot drill our way out of an oil consumption problem. We must look toward sustainable solutions that protect our natural resources, rather than drill for fossil fuels off our coasts. It is in the best interest of our environment and economy to develop a sustainable “energy portfolio” that includes renewable sources and conservation.

Energy conservation is the most economical and environmental way to achieve energy independence from fossil fuels. Riding mass transit, increasing auto efficiency, improving building insulation, and better managing electrical use in homes/businesses, are just a few ways we can reduce our oil and energy consumption. Conservation is much cheaper and healthier than investing in further development of offshore oil reserves.



It's imperative that our nation's leaders shift away from an old mindset of relying on fossil fuels. Climate change will not wait for us to 'rebuild our energy portfolio'. Oil drilling and continued use of fossil fuels only exacerbate the impacts of climate change, and keep us trapped in a backwards frame of mind. The answers for sustainable energy are already in front of us—and offshore drilling is not part of the answer.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

There are serious environmental impacts associated with each stage of offshore drilling. While some impacts may not be seen by the naked eye, there are a myriad of impacts that local communities and elected officials must know about before considering new oil drilling. Because the Surfrider Foundation is concerned about the environmental ramifications of drilling, we have chosen to highlight the most harmful impacts for this Fact Sheet.

- **Oil Exploration—Seismic Surveys: Seismic surveys, also referred to as 'air gun blasting', are conducted to locate and estimate the size of an offshore oil reserve. In order to conduct surveys, ships use 'airgun arrays' to emit high-decibel explosive impulses to map the seafloor. The noise from seismic surveys can damage or kill marine life. High decibels are known to reduce the presence of zooplankton, impair fish eggs and larvae, and temporarily if not permanently deafen adults and juveniles. Without the ability to hear, fish and marine mammals struggle to communicate, navigate, avoid predators, and locate prey. These disturbances can also disrupt important migratory patterns, forcing marine life away from suitable habitats meant for foraging and mating. In addition, seismic surveys have been implicated in whale beaching and stranding incidents.¹**
- **Drilling and Processing Oil: The process of drilling releases thousands of gallons of polluted water, known as "drilling muds". These muds contain toxins like benzene, zinc, arsenic, radioactive materials, and other contaminants used to lubricate drill bits and maintain pressure. Unfortunately, discharges are unregulated.² High concentrations of metals have been found around drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.³ A recent study by PEW Charitable Trust concluded that a single oil well discharges around 1,500 – 2,000 tons of waste material. Contaminants from oil drilling accumulate on the sea floor; smother organisms and cause malformations, genetic damage, and mortality in fish embryos.⁴**

¹ NRDC. 2017. "Protecting Our Ocean and Coastal Economies: Avoid Unnecessary Risks from Offshore Drilling".

² Patin, S. (Translations by Cascio, E.) 1999. "Waste discharges during the offshore oil and gas activity". <http://www.offshore-environment.com/discharges.html>

³ MMS. 2001. "Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sale 181", Final Environmental Impact Statement. <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Library/Publications/2008/2008-011.aspx>

⁴ "Offshore Drilling and Ocean Impacts" www.pewglobalwarming.org/resources/OCS_oceans_factsheet.pdf

Air pollution is yet another major problem associated with drilling and processing. Over its operational lifespan, a single rig can pollute the equivalent of 7,000 cars driving 50 miles per day.⁵ Air pollution is also a problem at oil refineries. For the state of California alone, refinery emissions of greenhouse gases account for about 40% of industrial emissions and almost 10% of the state's greenhouse gases.⁶ Additionally, the drilling and construction of oil pipelines used to transport extracted oil back to shore disturb fragile seafloor habitats, wetlands, and beaches.

- **Oil Spills:** As demonstrated by the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, oil spills have the potential to damage entire ecosystems. BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill released approximately 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, fouling beaches and coastal wetlands from Louisiana to Florida; killing birds, fish, and marine mammals; and devastating the recreation and fishing-based coastal economies of the Gulf States. Oil spills can also take numerous years to clean up. Nearly 20 years after the Exxon Valdez spill, more than 26,000 gallons of oil still remain in shoreline soils.⁷ Sadly, oil spills take place on a relatively consistent basis. Each year, about 880,000 gallons of oil are sent to the ocean from U.S. drilling operations.⁸



⁵ "Dirty Business" USPIRG <http://uspirg.org/uspirg.asp?id2=24551>

⁶ "Oil Refineries Fail to Report Harmful Emissions" <http://oversight.house.gov/documents/20040827114147-65907.pdf>

⁷ MacAskill, E. 2007. "18 years on, Exxon Valdez oil still pours" *The Guardian*.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2007/feb/02/oil.pollution>

⁸ "Minerals Management Service 2006. OCS Leasing Program: 2007-2012. Draft Environmental Impact Statement
http://www.mms.gov/5-year/2007-2012_DEIS.htm

From 1995 to 2010, the U.S. Mineral Management Service recorded 183 spills in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean (including spills of toxic chemicals related to drilling).⁹ Since 1969, there have been at least 44 large oil spills (over 10,000 barrels of oil each) in our nation's marine waterways.¹⁰ The U.S. Department of the Interior estimated that every three to four years, a spill of at least 10,000 barrels is expected to occur.¹¹ Natural disasters can also prompt spills. For instance, when Hurricane Katrina whipped through the Gulf of Mexico, she destroyed over 100 platforms and caused the largest oil spill in the U.S. since the Exxon Valdez.¹²



- **Onshore Environmental Impacts:** Oil production requires massive onshore infrastructure for transportation, storage, processing, and delivery. As such, local communities can experience onshore environmental problems because of offshore drilling. To transport oil to processing plants, pipelines and roads are often built through coastal wetlands and beaches, causing severe rates in the loss of habitat functionality and acreage.¹³ Local communities are directly impacted by the reduction in habitat functionality, as it results in the loss of "ecosystem services," including protection from shore break and sea level rise, water purification, shoreline stabilization, and habitat for coastal and marine wildlife that may be crucial for industries reliant on tourism and recreation.¹⁴ As such, the oil industry externalizes the costs of air, water and land pollution at the expense of our environment and coastal economies.



⁹ "Offshore oil drilling Incidents" <http://www.mms.gov/incidents/spills1996-2008.htm#1996-1999>

¹⁰ NOAA Office of Response and Restoration. 2017. "Largest Oil Spills Affecting U.S. Waters Since 1969." <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/largest-oil-spills-affecting-us-waters-1969.html>

¹¹ Connors, J. 2009. "False Hopes". *treehugger*. <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/02/offshore-drilling-oil-false-hope.php>

¹² Sever, M. 2006. "After Katrina". *GEOTIMES*. http://www.geotimes.org/feb06/feature_oilspill.html

¹³ Bosch, D.F. 2005. "The Awful Price of Coastal Ruin". *The Baltimore Sun*. http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2005-09-01/news/0509010037_1_wetland-loss-mississippi-river-dredged

¹⁴ Washington State Department of Ecology. N.D. "Functions and Values of Wetlands". *Access Washington*. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/functions.html>



ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Before scrutinizing ‘oil drilling myths,’ it’s important to examine economic arguments that prove our coastal communities are the mainstay of the U.S. economy and will undoubtedly suffer if new drilling occurs. The potential of catastrophic oil spills, continued contribution to climate change, and the eyesore of an industrialized coastline, could do significant harm to coastal communities and surrounding regions.

The National Ocean Economics Program reports on the importance of economic contributions from coastal states, which are estimated to provide over 80% of the nation’s GDP and employment, with almost of half of the Nation’s GDP coming from coastal counties alone. Additionally, the ocean economy’s¹⁵ tourism and recreation industry singlehandedly provides the largest amount of jobs (71%) to the U.S. economy. In fact, ocean tourism and recreation provides 12 times the amount of jobs to the U.S. economy, compared to offshore oil production.¹⁶ In the event of a spill, the tourism and recreation industry are likely to experience severe economic damages, forcing economic constraints and job losses on the majority of coastal populations.

Value Added by Coastal/Ocean Tourism and Recreation Related Industries (US Dollars, Billions)		
State	Coastal Leisure & Hospitality ¹⁷	Ocean Recreation & Tourism ¹⁸
California	\$98.8	\$18.4
Florida	\$57.0	\$17.4
New York	\$57.5	\$18.4
New Jersey	\$17.8	\$3.2
Washington	\$15.8	\$3.5

Table 1. Value Added by Coastal/Ocean Tourism and Recreation Related Industries. Annual GDP contribution (in \$US billion) of the coastal economy’s leisure and hospitality industry, and the ocean economy’s recreation and tourism industry.

In addition to tourism and recreation being impacted by drilling, fishing industries could also be disrupted and uprooted. Seismic surveys, oil rig construction, spill risk, and decommissioning activities may displace fishermen. The fishing industry is another pillar of

¹⁵ The report defines “ocean economy” as: ocean resources that have a direct or indirect input of goods and services to an economic activity.

¹⁶ Kildow, J.T., Colgan, C.S., Johnston, P., Scorse, J.D., Farnum, M.G. 2016. “State of the US Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2016 Update” National Ocean Economics Program. Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey *Center for the Blue Economy*. <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/>

¹⁷ 2015 Coastal Economy. 2017. National Ocean Economics Program. <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/coastal/>

¹⁸ Ibid, 2016.



our U.S. economy that we cannot afford to put in jeopardy.

Fishing Generated Income Impacts in 2010 ¹⁹		
(US Dollars, Millions)		
Region	Recreational Fishing	Commercial Fishing
North Atlantic	\$574	\$2,968
Mid-Atlantic	\$1,260	\$3,560
South Atlantic	\$1,786	\$3,235
Pacific NW	\$757	\$6,633
Pacific	\$2,947	\$3,911

Table 2. Fishing Generated Income Impacts in 2010. Annual income impacts (in \$US million) of the recreational and fishing industry by US region.

FACTS VS. FICTION

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke recently said, “The Gulf is a vital part of [the Trump Administration’s] strategy to spur economic opportunities for industry, states and local communities, to create jobs and homegrown energy and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”²⁰ Let’s use this statement as a basis to start identifying and remedying the myths of the offshore oil and gas industry:

MYTH: Offshore drilling will “spur economic opportunities for industry, states, and local communities to create jobs”.

Reality: As we determined above, offshore oil and gas development could actually harm industries that provide more jobs to local economies. This is most notable in the Gulf of Mexico. For every Gulf state besides Texas, tourism, recreation and living resources (fishing) together provide the largest employment contributions.²¹ The economic opportunities and jobs created by industries that depend on a healthy coastal environment are greater than those developed through offshore oil and gas development.

¹⁹ “2013 OceanEconomy”. 2017. National Ocean Economics Program. <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/ocean/oceanEcon.asp>

²⁰ Fears, D. 2017. “Trump’s new Gulf of Mexico oil and gas drilling proposal looks a lot like Obamas. *The Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/06/trumps-new-gulf-oil-and-gas-drilling-proposal-looks-a-lot-like-obamas/?utm_term=.d300fd927672

²¹ “2013 OceanEconomy”. 2017. National Ocean Economics Program. <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/ocean/oceanEcon.asp>

**Sectors Most Likely to be Negatively Affected by Oil and Gas
Development in Gulf of Mexico²²**

	Living Resources (Thousand \$)	Tourism & Recreation (Thousand \$)	Combined % of Ocean GDP	Combined % of Ocean Jobs
Florida	\$126,534	\$8,007,879	66%	92%
Alabama	\$200,504	\$585,769	29%	63%
Texas	\$241,445	\$1,671,321	1%	23%
Louisiana	\$463,370	\$2,006,390	11%	45%
Mississippi	\$392,543	\$401,846	36%	52%
All of Gulf	\$1,587,095	\$12,663,982	8%	53%

Table 3. Annual percent of total ocean economy GDP contributions and job opportunities of U.S. Gulf states in 2013, from sectors that are most likely to be harmed from offshore oil and gas development. Industries include living resources (fishing and aquaculture) and tourism and recreation.

Additionally, a 2015 economic analysis found that the development of offshore wind instead of offshore oil and gas would provide more jobs (an estimated 91,000 more jobs) and produce twice the energy.²³ Offshore oil and gas development does not significantly contribute to job growth, and alternative offshore energy developments might actually provide more benefits to “industry, states, and local communities” through greater employment opportunities and energy production.

MYTH: Expanding offshore drilling will “reduce our dependence on foreign oil”.

Reality: A Congressional report from 2003 indicates that increasing offshore production would not reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil.²⁴ Many people are surprised to find out that the U.S. receives approximately 45% of its oil from North America. In fact Canada and Mexico are two of the largest oil suppliers for the U.S.²⁵

The U.S. is currently experiencing its lowest dependence on oil in a long time, as net imports are at a 30-year low.²⁶ If we focus on reducing our consumption and investing in renewable

²² “2013 OceanEconomy”. 2017. National Ocean Economics Program. <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/ocean/oceanEcon.asp>

²³ Menaquale, A. 2015. “Offshore Energy by the Numbers: An Economic Analysis of Offshore Drilling and Wind Energy in the Atlantic”. *Oceana*. http://oceana.org/sites/default/files/offshore_energy_by_the_numbers_report_final.pdf

²⁴ Congressional Report: https://www.policyarchive.org/bitstream/handle/10207/1478/RL31521_20030314.pdf?sequence=1

²⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration. 2016. “Oil: Crude and Petroleum Products Explained, Oil Imports and Exports”. *Independent Statistics and Analysis*. http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=oil_imports

²⁶ Patton, M. 2016. “U.S. Dependence on Oil Hits 30 Year Low”. *Forbes Contributor*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikepatton/2016/04/20/u-s-dependence-on-foreign-oil-hits-30-year-low/#321e9734ff3>



storage capacity, instead of increasing national oil production, we can reduce this dependence even more.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil, churning through 18.7 million barrels a day.²⁷ By contrast, the United States only produces 9.1 million barrels a day.²⁸ According to the Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Boston University, under the most optimistic scenario, the U.S. would only produce an additional two to four million barrels a day, still leaving the U.S. with an import deficit. Even with new drilling, the U.S. would still need to import 40% of its daily oil consumption.²⁹

The U.S. needs a comprehensive energy plan that doesn't contradict itself. While the U.S. imports a large amount of oil, we are also exporting our own oil. Believe it or not, the U.S. exports almost 2 million barrels of oil a day. Why should we drill if the U.S. is exporting oil? U.S. oil exports have steadily increased over the past 30 years and the trend doesn't appear to be changing anytime soon.³⁰

MYTH: Expanding offshore drilling will "spur...homegrown energy"

Reality: The current level of U.S. oil production has nothing to do with the lack of access to offshore oil and gas reserves. In fact, hundreds of U.S. oil developers have gone bankrupt due to the low prices of oil and the high costs of drilling.³¹ Opening up additional offshore reserves will not ensure that oil prices will increase, and thus may not provide any additional production of "homegrown" energy. This means we already have oil and gas infrastructure that's not producing due to market influences – WHY threaten our coastlines and local economies to support a weak market when we have better alternatives?

MYTH: Offshore drilling will ensure our nation's long-term energy needs.

Reality: Even under the best-case scenario, America's offshore oil reserves in the Atlantic and Pacific would provide us only 758 days, or 25 months supply of oil at our current rate of consumption:

²⁷ Central Intelligence Agency. 2015. "Country Comparison to the World". *The World Factbook*. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2241.html>

²⁸ Ibid, 2015.

²⁹ Wangsness, L. 2008. "New offshore drilling not a quick fix." *The Boston Globe*. http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/20/new_offshore_drilling_not_a_quick_fix_analysts_say/

³⁰ U.S. Energy Information Administration. 2016. "Oil: Crude and Petroleum Products Explained, Oil Imports and Exports". *Independent Statistics and Analysis*. http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=oil_imports

³¹ Haynes and Boone, LLP. 2017. "Oil Patch Bankruptcy Monitor". http://www.haynesboone.com/~media/files/energy_bankruptcy_reports/2017/2017_oil_patch_monitor_20170220.ashx

- The North and Mid-Atlantic contain a small amount of oil. At 2016 usage and recent prices, the region contains about 4.17 billion barrels of oil, which would supply the nation with oil for about 211.78 days (about 7 months).
- The South Atlantic contains an even smaller amount of oil. At recent prices the area is estimated to contain approximately 0.55 billion barrels of oil, which would supply the nation with oil for about 27.93 days.
- In California, at recent prices and usage, there is an estimated 9.8 billion barrels of oil off California's coastline, which would supply the nation with approximately 497.71 days of oil (16.5 months).
- In the Pacific Northwest, Washington and Oregon only have a minuscule amount of oil, 0.4 billion barrels, and would supply the nation with 20.31 days of oil.



MYTH: Advances in drilling technology make offshore drilling “safer”.

Reality: New technology is far from safe, as proven by numerous recent spills, including the latest spill off the coast of Australia. Using “state of the art” technology, flaunted by oil companies, an oil rig blew out spilling at least 400 barrels of oil per day (estimate by oil company) and could have been as much as 2,000 barrels a day (estimate by Australia Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism). That spill covered thousands of square miles of ocean and was unable to be stopped for over two months.³²

³² “Oil leaking five times faster than thought”. ABC News, Oct 22, 2009. <http://www.webcitation.org/5l3RU9Sv0>



There are claims by oil drilling proponents that “subsea drilling” can be done safely and ‘kept out of sight.’ However, an investigative report exposed the truth that subsea drilling installations are almost entirely used in depths greater than 5,000 feet.³³ Waters in both the Atlantic and Pacific only run a few hundred feet deep. For example, in certain areas of the Pacific along the continental shelf, it’s estimated waters are approximately 650 feet.³⁴ Most waters off the coast of Florida run no deeper than 100 feet.³⁵

Finally, in the wake of storms with unprecedented strength, how can we be so sure that new rigs will be able to withstand winds and storm surge associated with another Hurricane Irma-like storm, or worse? We already know that current platforms are not safe in the face of powerful storms. This was illustrated in the Gulf of Mexico when both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita damaged a combined total of 113 platforms, 457 pipelines, and spilled roughly 750,000 gallons of oil.³⁶

MYTH: Economic benefits of offshore drilling “outweigh the risks.”

Reality: In most instances, risk assessments of offshore drilling fail to take into consideration the economic risk to our beaches and coastlines. As discussed above, our coastlines are single-handedly the biggest revenue generators for our economy. Our nation’s ocean, waves and beaches are vital recreational, economic and ecological treasures that will be polluted by an increase in offshore oil drilling. Why bother with such risk? Images of oiled marine life and vast amounts of oil covering the ocean have been permanently etched into our hearts and minds over the years. America needs to conserve energy, protect our natural resources and look for innovative ways to build a sustainable ‘energy portfolio’. Offshore oil drilling is not the answer.

³³ Wallace, J. 2009. “Faulty Promises in bid to drill off Florida?” *Herald Tribune*.
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20091129/ARTICLE/911299998?Title=Faulty-promises-in-bid-to-drill-off-Florida->

³⁴ Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network. N.D. “Continental Shelf”. National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. U.S. Department of Commerce.
http://www.sanctuariesimon.org/regional_sections/shelf/overview.php?sec=cs

³⁵ Wallace, J. 2009. “Faulty promises in bid to drill off Florida?”. *Herald Tribune*.
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20091129/ARTICLE/911299998?Title=Faulty-promises-in-bid-to-drill-off-Florida->

³⁶ Sturgis, S. 2015. “The Katrina oil spill disaster: a harbinger for the Atlantic Coast?”. *Facing South*.
<https://www.facingsouth.org/2015/08/the-katrina-oil-spill-disaster-a-harbinger-for-the.html>



2. RAISE AWARENESS

Social Media Guidelines, Graphics, and Sample Language

Working together we can raise awareness for urgent messages. Our goal is to leverage simple and consistent messaging and imagery across all national, regional, and local social media channels, so that we amplify our message as much as possible.

REPURPOSE POSTS FROM @SURFRIDER NATIONAL CHANNELS

As soon as important developments occur, messaging and call-to-actions (if applicable) will be shared through the national channels (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) linked below. We welcome you to “share” our posts on Facebook and retweet our posts on Twitter. On Instagram, you can screenshot our posts OR you can use an iPhone or Android App like [Repost](#) or [InstaRepost](#). Here are direct links to our national social media accounts:

Facebook: [@surfrider](#)

Twitter: [@surfrider](#)

Instagram: [@surfrider](#)

POST ORIGINAL CONTENT WITH THE MESSAGING AND IMAGES

If you're not able to share or retweet our posts, we encourage you to create your own “unique” posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, using the language below. To generate these posts, we have put together a sample copy and URLs (below), as well as a folder of images. This folder can be found on the brand portal at: [brand.surfrider.org](#)

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS + LINKS

Be sure to include specific call to action and a URL to a page with more background information (such as the blog post below) in EVERY post:

<http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017>

Graphics and **video** assets are available on the Brand Portal at:

<https://brand.surfrider.org/2017/04/12/offshore-oil-drilling/>

FACEBOOK



#1

The federal administration signed an executive order to open up our coasts to #OffshoreDrilling. We cannot allow our delicate ocean ecosystems to be ravaged by offshore oil drilling. Tell the administration or your representative that you oppose dirty drilling! <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017> #DefendOurCoasts

#2

Our beaches are at risk! The federal administration signed an executive order to open up our coasts to #OffshoreDrilling. We've fought and won against drilling before. Time to do it again. Act now to #DefendOurCoasts! <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017>

#3

Did you know that the "normal" process of offshore oil drilling releases thousands of gallons of polluted water into the ocean? Tell the federal administration and your local representatives that you say NO to more #OffshoreDrilling! <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017> #DefendOurCoasts

#4

Did you know that the U.S. government estimates that there is one 10,000 barrel spill for every 7.7 billion barrels produced, at current production, that's like having over 48,000 gallons spilled each year. We can't afford to keep polluting our oceans. Tell the federal administration and your local representatives that you are opposed to offshore oil drilling. <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017> #DefendOurCoasts

TWITTER

#1

The process of #offshoredrilling releases thousands of gallons of polluted water. #DefendOurCoasts <http://go.surfrider.org/stopoffshore-drilling-2017>

#2

The U.S. govt estimates that every 3-4 years a spill of at least 420K gallons of oil is expected. #DefendOurCoasts <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017>

#3

ALERT: The federal administration signed an executive order to open up our coasts to #offshoredrilling. Join us to #DefendOurCoasts <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshoredrilling-2017>

INSTAGRAM



Any of the posts written for Facebook can be cross-posted and repurposed on Facebook and Instagram, however PLEASE BE SURE that you update the website link in your profile to direct to <http://go.surfrider.org/stop-offshore-drilling-2017> and then tell your followers to “click the link in your profile” for more info.

This is what your profile should look like with the updated website URL:



CAMPAIGN HASHTAGS

#DefendOurCoasts
#StopOffshoreDrilling

GENERAL TALKING POINTS AND MESSAGING

- The Surfrider Foundation is opposed to offshore oil drilling. Our nation’s ocean, waves and beaches are vital recreational, economic and ecological treasures that would be polluted by an increase in offshore oil drilling.
- The Surfrider Foundation and our partners achieved a major victory last year and successfully stopped the federal government’s plans for offshore drilling and seismic blasting off the Atlantic coast. We stand ready to fight the expected announcement by the Trump administration to remove permanent protections for the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans from oil drilling.
- We cannot allow our ocean and beaches to be wrecked by dirty drilling. Offshore drilling is a violent, toxic and dangerous practice that ravages our oceans with chemical pollution, spills, fires and explosions. It kills fish and sea life, poisons coral reefs and pollutes beaches.
- Expanding offshore drilling damages the tourism, recreation and fishing industries that generate billions of dollars for our nation’s economy. That’s why hundreds of communities, thousands of businesses and millions of citizens are opposed to further



offshore drilling.

- **Offshore drilling destroys the beaches and beauty of coastal communities, driving waterfront restaurants, surf shops and tourism based industry out of business.**
- **This policy move is a blatant money grab for the oil lobby at the expense of everyone else. Big oil stands to make billions on this while coastal communities and small businesses suffer.**

TALKING POINTS REGARDING IMPACTS

- **Even when there are no accidents, offshore oil drilling seriously pollutes our water and food supply.**
- **The normal process of offshore oil drilling releases thousands of gallons of polluted water into the ocean, known as 'drilling muds,' which contain toxic substances such as benzene, zinc, arsenic, radioactive materials, and other contaminants.**
- **High concentrations of metals have been found around drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and have been shown to accumulate in fish, mussels and other seafood, contaminating our food supply.**
- **Spills are an inevitable part of offshore drilling. The U.S. government estimates that there is one 10,000 barrel spill for every 7.7 billion barrels produced, at current production, that's like having over 48,000 gallons spilled each year. So even if everything goes according to plan, oil drilling always means oil spilling.**
- **We have seen the impacts of dirty drilling. To know what will happen if we open up these delicate ecosystems, all we need to do is look at big oil's track record. Deepwater Horizon. Exxon Valdez. And all the smaller, less well-known spills in areas along our coasts.**
- **Oil spills ruin entire ecosystems. Even after excruciatingly expensive and long cleanup processes, the toxic effects remain for years, even decades.**
 - **Nearly 20 years after the Exxon Valdez spill, more than 26,000 gallons of oil still remained in the soil on the shoreline.**
 - **The Deepwater Horizon disaster released about 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, coating beaches and coastal wetlands in oil; killing birds, fish, whales and dolphins; and devastating coastal communities and economies.**



- **Climate change makes offshore drilling more dangerous. Extreme weather like tropical storms and hurricanes are happening more often and getting more severe, making spills and breaches more likely. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita damaged a combined total of 113 platforms and spilled roughly 750,000 gallons of oil.**

TALKING POINTS REGARDING SOLUTIONS

- **Opening the coasts for dirty drilling is a huge step backwards for U.S. energy policy. Clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuels and propels our nation into the future. Let's make offshore drilling a practice of the past.**
- **The U.S. does not need the oil we'd get from dirty drilling. U.S offshore oil reserves would provide us only 920 days or 18 months of supply, at most. New drilling will not help long-term energy needs.**
- **We don't need more fossil fuel infrastructure like rigs and pipelines. Instead of pursuing transient and environmentally harmful ways to meet America's energy needs, we should seek environmentally sustainable energy solutions, including energy conservation. We need to invest in renewable energy, which is affordable, clean and creates more jobs than oil, coal and gas.**
- **Nationally, renewable energy jobs outnumber jobs in oil, coal and gas by 2.5 to 1. That number is only going to grow. The future is renewable.**

CHAPTER MARKETING/COMMUNICATION LEADERS

As we're working towards increased coordination between national/chapter communications, we're pulling together a list of the primary social media and news media contacts within each chapter. If you're able to identify and provide a main social/media contact within your Chapter or Club, that will help us ensure we're in greater alignment and amplifying our message as wide as possible. Please email Kyle Lishok (kyle@surfrider.org) or Melissa Mefford (mmefford@surfrider.org) with your info or any questions.

3. DIRECT ADVOCACY

Sample Discussion Topics for Lobby Events

INTRODUCTIONS

- **Thank them for meeting with you.**



- Introduce yourself and where you are from.
- Summarize what you will be talking to them about: e.g. “we are here to ask for your leadership on preventing offshore drilling in the Atlantic and to discuss our priorities on ocean health.”

DISCUSS OFFSHORE DRILLING

A. Explain issue & Surfrider’s position

- i. (BOEM) is considering opening up the Pacific, Arctic, Mid- and South Atlantic to new oil drilling in its revised five-year plan.
- ii. We are opposed to new offshore drilling and would like instead to see an economy-wide transition to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.

B. Describe impact on you (refer to “Offshore Drilling is Not the Answer Fact Sheet” for details)

- i. Offshore drilling threatens our coastal economies
- ii. Drilling operations would impact the marine environment

C. Ask for their support / understand their position

- i. Ask them if they are willing to speak out against offshore drilling. If they are not willing to do so, ask them to describe their position.
- ii. If appropriate, ask them to please support the following bills:

Senate	House of Reps	Description
"Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act" (S.999)	"Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act" (H.R.2271)	Prohibits offshore drilling on the outer continental shelf in the Atlantic (S. & H.R.) and straits of Florida (S.)
"Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act" (S.991)	"Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling" (H.R.1784)	Prohibits offshore drilling in the Arctic Ocean (S. & H.R.)
"West Coast Ocean Protection Act" (S.31)	"West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2017" (H.R.169)	Prohibits offshore drilling on the outer continental shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington (S. & H.R.)
--	"Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act" (H.R.2158)	Prohibits oil, gas, and methane related seismic testing in the Atlantic and Straits of Florida



4. GENERATE MEDIA

Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor

- Pick a topic you feel passionate about and incorporate a personal story if possible.
- Link your letter to an issue recently discussed in the target publication for a better chance of getting published; cite the article you are writing about in the subject line of your submission email.
- Think of new ways to discuss the issue, provide new facts or data, or present unique solutions to the problem.
- Write concisely and accurately following the guidelines provided on the newspaper's opinion page; pay close attention to word limits (if applicable).
- Keep your tone positive and constructive.
- Use terminology that's simple for audiences.
- Close with a short restatement of your position.
- Note that some newspapers specifically state that your letter cannot have been submitted to or published by any other media or Internet outlet.
- Sign/provide your name and include your phone number, email and address.
- Many papers require you to disclose your involvement, affiliations or relationship with the topic if applicable.
- E-mail letter to the address listed for the publication or submit online.
- To send via email, cut and paste the text into the body of an email as most news organizations will not open e-mail attachments that could contain viruses.
- Expect a call verifying you as the author.
- Consider sending a copy of your published letter to your elected leaders along with a personal letter to emphasize how important the issue is to you.

Adapted from cleanenergy.org

Op-Ed Template: Stop New Offshore Drilling

(Note: this template is for business leaders but can be adapted for Surfrider chapter leaders or community leaders.)



Headline should be customized for each story.

Why I Say No to Oil Drilling off of [STATE/COMMUNITY]'s Coast By [NAME/BUSINESS such as Jane Smith, Owner of Simply Surfboards]

As a business owner in [CITY/ STATE] for the past [XX] years, I know that our beautiful beaches and [INSERT SOMETHING ELSE ICONIC ABOUT THE LOCAL COAST] are essential engines of our city's economy.

Every year, thousands of people visit our coast to enjoy our beaches [INSERT ANYTHING ELSE ICONIC/LOCAL], spending millions on hotel visits, dining and supporting businesses like mine. [INSERT LOCAL DATA ON HOW MANY TOURISTS VISIT OR HOW MUCH MONEY THE COASTAL ECONOMY OR TOURISM INDUSTRY GENERATES]. We must do everything we can to preserve our coast, which is why I have joined a growing movement of business and community leaders on the [Pacific/ or Atlantic coast] to urge our federal government to cancel plans for new offshore drilling.

This month, the Trump administration announced a proposal to expand offshore oil drilling in U.S. waters, threatening ocean recreation, tourism and fishing industries, which provide more than \$114 billion in GDP and 2.28 million jobs nationwide. The Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Plan includes planned drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Arctic Ocean. This extreme proposal opens over 90% of the Outer Continental Shelf to new drilling and puts our nation's coastal communities, beaches, surf breaks, and marine ecosystems at risk of a catastrophic oil spill. This also means that oil rigs could soon sit off our beautiful [IDENTIFY CITY, AREA OR STATE] coastline, threatening our economy and way of life.

An oil spill could ruin our economy and environment, but the harm actually occurs way before a spill. Damage to the ocean and wildlife begins when oil companies start seismic blasting to find the best places to drill for oil. The deafening noise created by the seismic airguns can harm whales, dolphins, and sea turtles and drive fish away, hurting our tourism and fishing industries. Seismic blasting is the first step to offshore oil drilling, which means this will soon be permitted right in our backyard.

Most people do not like to vacation or swim in the shadow of oil rigs, much less in waters ruined by an oil spill. The industrialization and pollution of our coast from oil development will hurt our economy, driving business away from hotels, restaurants and shops, and jeopardize our fishing industry [ADD/CHANGE DEPENDING ON LOCAL INDUSTRIES].

It's time to come together to protect our community. Bipartisan opposition to offshore oil drilling is growing, but we need more support. To date, over 120 East Coast municipalities, 1,200 elected officials, and an alliance representing 35,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families have publicly opposed offshore drilling or seismic blasting.



Our [CITY COUNCIL/ STATE LEADERS/BUSINESS LEADERS] have spoken out against this threat and are working with leading grassroots organizations like the [Surfrider Foundation](#). We need more voices to join the fight. [INSERT QUOTE OR OTHER STATEMENTS MADE/ACTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL POLICYMAKERS OR BUSINESS LEADERS.] Stand with us and [INSERT SPECIFIC CALL TO ACTION FOR READERS].

We must fight to protect our coastline, economy and way of life from the dangers of offshore drilling. [CITY NAME] has everything to lose and nothing to gain. I for one do not want to see our community impacted by oil and gas development off our coast. I hope you will join us in our opposition to offshore drilling and demand that our president, our governor, and our congressmen do the same [INSERT NAMES OF LOCAL POLITICIANS IF THEY DO NOT YET OPPOSE DRILLING]. We must protect what makes our community special and speak out against offshore drilling. Take action and ask our federal leaders to defend [our coasts from new offshore oil drilling](#) and protect our ocean, waves and beaches.

Draft Op-Ed Request to Co-Author with Congress

Request to a Member that has Already Opposed Offshore Oil Drilling

Dear Senator/ Representative [NAME],

Thank you so much for your tireless service to the [CITY/DISTRICT/STATE], including your support for protecting ocean and coastal resources and the communities that depend upon them.

As a grassroots coastal conservation organization, we deeply appreciate your leadership in opposing the federal administration's offshore oil drilling plans that threaten the health of our environment and related coastal economies. The Surfrider Foundation shares the goal of stopping new offshore oil drilling and our chapters and volunteers are advocating passionately to defend our coasts from this threat [ADD SENTENCE ABOUT WHAT LOCAL CHAPTERS ARE DOING].

Would [SEN/REP NAME] be willing to serve as co-author of an op-ed, calling for the administration to cancel plans for new offshore drilling and seismic blasting (or rollbacks of existing coastal protections/ monuments)? We'd love to have your voice in concert with that of [CO-AUTHOR] to make sure our beautiful and economically vital coastline is not laid to waste.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[NAME]
[SURFRIDER TITLE]



Event/Rally Media Advisory Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE [XXXX]

Contact: Name, Organization, Phone, Email
www.surfrider.org

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

[Event] to Oppose Offshore Oil Drilling Happening in [Town] on [Date]

WHAT: Community members will unite to display their opposition to oil and gas development off the [XXXX] coast. The threat to the local communities from the development of oil and gas infrastructure, seismic testing, and a potential oil spill is not worth the risk. Coastal communities are on the front line, and it is their livelihoods that are at risk. Our nation does not need new offshore oil and gas extraction. This community is fighting for the protection of our coastline, coastal economy and a clean energy future.

WHO: [XXXX NUMBER] of citizens from [INSERT COMMUNITY/ CITY/REGION] will be joined by [INSERT ORGANIZATIONS]. [List any VIPs that will be attending/ speaking]

WHEN: [DAY], [DATE] at [TIME] (Media Check In at [30 MIN PRIOR TO START TIME])

WHERE: [ADDRESS OF EVENT AND EXACT LOCATION]

****VISUALS** will include coastal community members uniting in opposition, signs, banners
[LIST ANY OTHER VISUALS]

****TERRIFIC INTERVIEW AND PHOTO/ VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE****

5. BUILD COALITIONS

Offshore Drilling Business Petition
<http://go.surfrider.org/biz-no-offshore-drill>

Protect our Coasts from New Offshore Oil Drilling

**** PLEASE ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO THE GROWING COALITION AGAINST NEW OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION IS ENCOURAGING THE COASTAL RECREATION**



& TOURISM INDUSTRY TO SPEAK OUT TO PROTECT OUR ECONOMY, COMMUNITIES, AND WAY OF LIFE. THE FINAL LETTER WILL BE SHARED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS, AND THE DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR. ADD YOUR SUPPORT BELOW THE TEXT OF THE LETTER **

We, the undersigned businesses of the coastal recreation and tourism sector, are strongly opposed to new offshore drilling and seismic exploration in U.S. waters.

Coastal recreation and tourism are major economic drivers for coastal communities and the nation as a whole. The expansion of offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, or Arctic would pose a major threat to our natural resources, economy, and way of life. Oil and gas development would cause ecological harm through both seismic exploration and drilling operations. If a major oil spill were to occur, the environment that supports our industry would be severely damaged and the quality of life of both residents and visitors would be significantly degraded.

As stewards of our nation’s public resources and coastal economies, we ask for your leadership in protecting our ocean ecosystems and coastal communities from new offshore oil leases and seismic exploration activities.

Sincerely,

Name

[insert name]

Title

[insert job title]

Business

[insert business]

State

[insert state]

Email address

[insert email]

I am authorized to sign on this business

[state yes or no]

Best Practices for Working with a Coalition

Surfrider often takes a collaborative approach to ensure effective and successful campaigns, partnering with local, state, and national businesses and organizations. Surfrider also strives to have solid collaboration within the Surfrider network. In the interest of working effectively at the state or regional level (avoiding duplicate efforts, maintaining coalition organization and planning, etc.), we ask chapters to follow the guidelines below:



- If coalition partners reach out to engage chapters directly, please redirect them to regional staff to coordinate (unless otherwise specified in advance).
- When participating in “Sign On” letters drafted by other organizations, be sure to only sign on at the local level. If a Sign On letter has a broader regional or national approach, please forward to regional staff.
- During collaborative efforts, ensure that Surfrider’s contributions are recognized. On the same note, be sure to give credit to any partners or other organizations for collaboratively developed material or events.
- When making commitments with business leaders or other NGO’s, be mindful of your capacity and availability, and please make sure to follow through on plans.

6. PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

Email Request Template to Send to Local Decision Makers

Dear [MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER/COMMISSIONER],

I hope you will consider passing a resolution opposing efforts to open our Atlantic Coast to offshore oil and gas development and exploration. More than 120 East Coast cities and towns have already passed similar measures, and I urge you to add CITY NAME to the list. Attached please find a sample resolution for your consideration.

Our state’s ocean economy doesn’t mix with offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration. In 2014 alone, ocean industries, such as fishing, tourism, and recreation, contributed nearly \$[XX] billion to [STATE]’s gross domestic product (GDP) and supported more than [XX] jobs. These jobs and related income depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and abundant fish and wildlife.

With the federal administration seeking to open vast areas off of America’s coasts to oil and gas activities, we are more concerned than ever before about the possibility of harmful drilling and exploration occurring off our coast:

The Administration intends to reopen the country’s recently finalized Five-Year Plan for offshore oil and gas development, which prohibited drilling along the Atlantic Coast.



Just recently, the national fisheries service requested public comment on new geophysical surveys for oil and gas deposits. If approved, these surveys would allow private companies to fire seismic airguns – one of the loudest manmade sounds ever recorded in the ocean – every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end. This activity has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as endangered whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species.

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the East Coast could impact [STATE]'s coastal communities. Oil spills can travel vast distances, and a spill off of Virginia could still spoil our waters. The blasting sound from airguns can be heard underwater up to 2,500 miles away from their source – further than the distance from Florida to Maine.

On behalf of [ORGANIZATION, MEMBERS], I urge [NAME OF COUNCIL] to stand up in support of [STATE] interests and pass a resolution opposing Atlantic Coast offshore oil and gas exploration and development, including seismic airgun blasting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [NUMBER]. Thank you for your time and consideration.

City Resolution Language to Send to Local Decision Makers

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF _____'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, in [STATE] hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and abundant fish and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, the vast majority of [STATE]'s ocean wealth stems from our tourism and recreation sector which benefits from a healthy ocean and coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and,



WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of [STATE]'s coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss and storm surge and sea level rise impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Atlantic coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and,

WHEREAS, the current administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like squid, lobster, and scallops; and,

WHEREAS, the City of _____ recognizes that our communities, businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners, and visitors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF _____ THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of _____ finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and therefore opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of [STATE].

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the _____.

SECTION 3. The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to [STATE] Governor [GOVERNOR NAME], U. S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; U.S. Representative _____; State Senator _____; State Representatives _____; and any other interested parties.



Signed _____

7. OTHER RESOURCES

- Check out [Hands Across the Sand](#) resources: including [Draft OpEd](#), [Press Release](#), [Press Advisory](#), and [Letter to the Editor](#)
- Read current blogs on the Ocean Protection [Microsite](#)
- Expand your knowledge with [Beachapedia](#) resources: including the seismic surveys ("air gun blasting") [page](#), offshore oil drilling [page](#), rigs to reefs [page](#)
- Access Surfrider's [Brand Portal](#) for links to graphics, images and media assets
- Find, share and complete the current [Action Alerts](#) against new offshore drilling