

East Coast opposition

Currently, more than 250 East Coast municipalities and over 1,700 elected local, state and federal officials have formally opposed offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting. Numerous fishing and tourism interests, including local chambers of commerce, tourism and restaurant associations, and an alliance representing over 41,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families from Florida to Maine, also oppose oil exploration and development in the Atlantic.

Additionally, the New England, South and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Florida Defense Support Task Force have all expressed concerns about the compatibility of their activities with ongoing oil and gas operations.

Opposition to seismic airgun blasting and Atlantic drilling has been mounting for years, and the issue will continue to be significant for people along the East Coast. Especially since nearly 1.5 million jobs and over \$108 billion in gross domestic product rely on healthy ocean ecosystems, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.

For more information, please visit: stopthedrill.org

Florida municipalities and counties opposing seismic blasting and/or offshore drilling

1. [Apalachicola](#)
2. [Atlantic Beach](#)
3. [Belleaire Beach](#)
4. [Bonita Springs](#)
5. [Broward County](#)
6. [Cape Canaveral](#)
7. [Cape Coral](#)
8. [Clearwater](#)
9. [Cocoa Beach](#)
10. [Collier County](#)
11. [Dania Beach](#)
12. [Deerfield Beach](#)
13. [Dunedin](#)
14. [Escambia County](#)
15. [Fernandina Beach](#)
16. [Flagler County](#)
17. [Fort Lauderdale](#)
18. [Fort Myers Beach](#)
19. [Fort Walton Beach](#)
20. [Gulfport](#)
21. [Hallandale Beach](#)
22. [Indialantic](#)
23. [Indian Harbor Beach](#)
24. [Indian River County](#)
25. [Indian Shores](#)
26. [Islamorada](#)
27. [Jacksonville Beach](#)
28. [Key West](#)
29. [Lake Worth](#)
30. [Maderia Beach](#)
31. [Marathon](#)
32. [Marco Island](#)
33. [Martin County](#)
34. [Melbourne](#)
35. [Melbourne Beach](#)
36. [Miami](#)
37. [Miami Beach: 9/10/2008 and 1/17/2018](#)
38. [Miami-Dade County](#)
39. [Monroe County](#)
40. [Naples](#)
41. [Neptune Beach](#)
42. [New Smyrna Beach](#)
43. [North Redington Beach](#)
44. [Oakland Park](#)
45. [Palm Beach County](#)
46. [Pensacola](#)
47. [Pinellas County](#)
48. [Punta Gorda](#)
49. [Redington Beach](#)
50. [Redington Shores](#)
51. [Sanibel](#)
52. [Sarasota](#)
53. [Satellite Beach](#)
54. [South Miami](#)
55. [Space Coast League of Cities](#)
56. [St. Augustine](#)
57. [St. Johns County](#)
58. [St. Lucie County](#)
59. [St. Peter's Beach](#)
60. [St. Petersburg](#)

- 61. [Tarpon Springs](#)
- 62. [Titusville](#)
- 63. [Treasure Island](#)

- 64. [Vero Beach](#)
- 65. [West Melbourne](#)
- 66. [Wilton Manors](#)

Opposition from Florida business interests

- [The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce](#): Passed resolution opposing the Draft Proposed Program 1/12/2018 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent letters to Governors [Scott](#), [Deal](#), [McAuliffe](#) and [Carney](#) 7/21/2017 and [Cooper](#) 7/20/2017 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition](#) (GCBC) established July 2017
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to Interior Secretary Zinke on behalf of more than 41,000 businesses and 500,200 commercial fishing families, urging them not to reconsider the 2017-2022 plan, and opposing offshore drilling and seismic blasting 4/28/17
- [Destin, FL Chamber of Commerce](#): Passed resolution 1/24/2017 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to President Obama on behalf of more than 35,000 businesses and 500,200 commercial fishing families from Maine to Florida, urging him to permanently protect the Atlantic from offshore oil and gas drilling, and to deny all Atlantic seismic airgun blasting permits 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [66 East Coast businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 12/12/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast](#): Sent [letter](#) to President Obama on behalf of more than 12,000 businesses and 400,000 commercial fishing families 10/27/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [360+ East Coast Businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 2/16/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [280 East Coast Businesses](#): Signed letter to President Obama 2/3/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Tampa Bay Beaches, FL Chamber of Commerce](#): Updated Resolution 7/21/2015 (offshore drilling)

Opposition from fishing interests in the Southeast region of the United States

- [New England Fishery Management Council](#) (6/29/2017), [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#) (4/25/2017) and [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#) (4/25/2017): All sent letters to Interior Secretary Zinke expressing concerns with the risks posed by seismic surveys and oil and gas development to managed resources, fisheries and coastal communities along the Atlantic coast
- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Sent a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke expressing concerns with the risks posed by seismic surveys and oil and gas development to managed resources, fisheries and coastal communities along the Atlantic coast 4/30/2017
- [Snook and Gamefish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM opposing offshore oil exploration in the Atlantic 8/30/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [Southern Shrimp Alliance](#): Sent letter to BOEM opposing offshore oil exploration in the Atlantic 6/24/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Updated and strengthened its policies to increase protection for fisheries and fish habitat from energy exploration and development activities for the species and areas the Council is charged with managing 12/14/2015
- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Sent letter to BOEM 4/30/2015 (seismic blasting)
- [Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association](#): Submitted comments to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Southeastern Fisheries Association](#): Sent letter to President Obama 12/3/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Billfish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/7/2014 (seismic blasting)

- International Game Fish Association: Sent letter to BOEM 5/1/2014 (seismic blasting); sent letter to BOEM and DOC 8/3/2017 (seismic blasting and offshore drilling)

National security stakeholders

- U.S. Airforce: Sent letter to Senator Nelson 6/27/2017 (offshore drilling)
- Office of the Under Secretary of Defense: Responded to a letter from U.S. Representative Gaetz (R-FL) stating that "the DoD cannot overstate the vital importance of maintaining [the Eastern Gulf of Mexico offshore oil and gas] moratorium" (4/26/17)
- Florida Defense Support Task Force White Paper - Oil Drilling & Military Mission Compatibility: Recommended that Florida maintain a united front in supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line 1/31/17
- DoD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment - BOEM 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program: Outlined the large conflicting national security and current military operational uses in the U.S. OCS, especially the Atlantic Ocean, with permanent and temporary oil and gas structures 10/30/15
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) commented on the 2017-2022 Five-Year Plan Request for Information: Expressed continued concern regarding the potential impacts that oil and gas development of the coast of Virginia would have on the operation at Wallops Flight Facility 8/2014
- Defense Secretary Rumsfeld: Sent a letter to Chairman Warner stating that offshore oil and gas activities within the Gulf of Mexico Military Mission Line would be incompatible with military activities 11/30/05

Opposition from Florida elected officials and key stakeholders

- Governor Rick Scott: Posted a statement opposing offshore oil drilling off Florida's coasts and asked Secretary Zinke to remove Florida from consideration for the 2019-2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 1/4/2018
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Submitted RFI comments on behalf of itself, as well as the Florida Department of State, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Geological Survey, and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, expressing concerns about the effects of OCS oil and gas activities off Florida's coasts 8/17/17
- Monroe County: Submitted RFI comments strongly opposing any expansion of offshore drilling 8/15/17
- The City of Coconut Creek: Submitted RFI comments opposing the expansion of offshore drilling on the Atlantic coast 8/10/17
- Martin County: Submitted RFI comments strongly opposing any expansion of offshore drilling 7/26/17
- Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition: Sent letter to President Obama 11/15/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- Queen Creek, Gullah Geechee Nation: Sent letter to President Obama 11/3/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- Gullah/Geechee Nation, NC-SC-GA-FL: Passed 10/1/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- Florida State Department of Environmental Protection: Sent letter to BOEM "recommending delaying permitting until data/information that is currently not available can be collected and effects assessed using this new information" 4/20/2015 (seismic blasting)
- 83 East Coast State Legislators, led by State Representative Pricey Harrison: Sent letter to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling)
- Jacksonville, FL (Former) Mayor Alvin Brown: Sent letter to BOEM 5/7/2014 (seismic blasting)
- 95 state and local elected officials: Submitted letter to President Obama opposing seismic blasting on 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)
- St. Augustine Beach, FL Mayor Andrea Samuels: Sent letter to BOEM 4/15/2014 (seismic blasting)

Congressional letters of opposition with Florida members

- East Coast Republicans: Sent letter to Secretary Zinke opposing the inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico in the Draft Proposed Program 3/8/2018 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Congressman Rutherford (R-FL): Sent letter to BOEM Acting Director Cruickshank requesting an extension for the Draft Proposed Program public comment period and more hearings in Florida 2/1/2018 (offshore drilling)
- Florida Congressional delegation: Sent letter to Secretary Zinke reiterating strong opposition to offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico 1/24/2018 (offshore drilling)
- Florida Congressional delegation: Sent letter to Defense Secretary Mattis urging him to weigh in on the Draft Proposed Program to protect military interests in region 1/19/2018 (offshore drilling)
- More than 150 House Democrats led by U.S. Representative Pallone (D-NJ): Sent letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him to remove the Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific and Eastern Gulf of Mexico planning areas from the Draft Proposed Program 1/18/2018 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Senator Nelson (D-FL): Sent letter to Interior Secretary Zinke with concerns about the Draft Proposed Program 1/18/2018 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Senator Reed and 21 other Senate Democrats: Sent letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him to their coastal states from the Draft Proposed Program 1/11/2018 (offshore drilling)
- 36 Senate Democrats led by U.S. Senator Merkley (D-OR): Sent letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him to maintain the 2017-2022 plan 1/9/2018 (offshore drilling)
- 30 U.S. Senators led by Merkley (D-OR) and Markey (D-MA): Sent letter to BOEM 8/17/2017 (offshore drilling)
- 68 U.S. Representatives led by Pallone (D-NJ) and Sanford (R-SC): Sent bipartisan letter to BOEM 8/11/2017 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Senator Nelson: Sent a letter opposing the proposed issuance of 5 IHAs to authorize harassment of marine mammals by companies seeking to conduct oil and gas seismic testing off the Atlantic coast 7/20/17
- 103 U.S. Representatives: Led by Reps Rutherford (R-FL) and Beyer (D-VA) sent a bipartisan letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him not to authorize Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) and to deny all pending seismic airgun blasting permits in the Atlantic 6/28/2017
- 14 U.S. Senators led by Sen. Nelson (D-FL): Sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Ross opposing the issuance of Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) for Atlantic offshore oil and gas exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, and requesting the agency extend the public comments period and hold field hearings 6/9/17
- 107 U.S. Representatives: Led by Reps. LoBiondo (R-NJ) and Lowenthal (D-CA) sent a bipartisan letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him not to include the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the new OCS five-year plan as re-initiated by President Trump's Executive Order 5/11/17
- 27 U.S. Senators: Led by Sens. Markey (D-MA) and Menendez (D-NJ) sent a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him not to revise the 2017-2022 OCS five-year plan 4/27/17
- Reps. Gaetz (R-FL) & Dunn (R-FL): Led a bipartisan letter with 15 other members of Florida's Congressional delegation to Defense Secretary General Mattis requesting he maintain the moratorium on oil and gas leasing activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico 3/24/17
- U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson: Led a bipartisan letter with 16 members of Florida's Congressional delegation urging the new administration to keep offshore drilling rigs out of the eastern Gulf of Mexico 3/24/2017
- 74 U.S. Representatives: Sent bipartisan letter asking President Obama to permanently protect the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans from any future offshore oil and gas leasing 9/28/2016 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Representatives Sanford (SC-1) and Connolly (VA-11): Sent bipartisan letter with 53 colleagues urging President Obama to halt consideration of G&G permits in the Atlantic 6/8/2016 (seismic blasting)

- U.S. Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA): Sent a letter with 28 colleagues to Secretary of State John Kerry expressing serious concern over offshore oil and gas exploration and development in Nova Scotia waters tangential to critical U.S. fishing waters 5/19/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- 18 U.S. Senators: Sent letter to President Obama urging the administration to refrain from permitting seismic blasting in the Atlantic 4/28/2016
- 51 U.S. Representatives: Sent letter to President Obama thanking the administration for removing the Atlantic from consideration in the five-year plan 4/25/2016 (offshore drilling)
- 36 U.S. Representatives: Sent bipartisan letter to DOI asking to remove the Atlantic Ocean from the next five-year plan 2/11/2016 (offshore drilling)
- U.S. Representatives Scott (VA-3) and Sanford (SC-1): Sent bipartisan letter with 31 colleagues to BOEM asking to halt seismic testing in the Atlantic 12/14/2015 (seismic blasting)
- 53 U.S. Representatives: Sent letter to DOI 3/9/2015 (offshore drilling)
- 12 U.S. Senators: Sent letter to DOI 3/9/2015 (offshore drilling)
- 13 members of Florida's Congressional delegation: Sent letter to DOI opposing offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico 8/27/2014
- U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (FL-1): Sent letter to DOI opposing offshore drilling and seismic testing 7/31/2014
- 11 members of Florida's congressional delegation: Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 7/18/2014
- 4 members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources: Sent letter to DOI and NOAA expressing their concern and requesting information about seismic testing and offshore drilling 1/8/2014
- 13 members of Florida's congressional delegation: Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 4/17/2013
- 27 U.S. Representatives: Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 1/30/2013
- U.S. Senator Bill Nelson: Sent letter to Secretaries Ross and Zinke opposing seismic activity and expressing concern for the survival of the North Atlantic right whales. 04/02/2018

Editorials in Florida

- Bradenton Herald: Block offshore drilling in Florida
- Florida Times-Union: No seismic testing
- Florida Times-Union: Thanks to Obama, our coast is in danger
- Florida Times-Union: Offshore drilling is a danger to Florida
- Gainesville Sun: Keep drilling out of Eastern Gulf
- Herald Tribune: Editorial: Retain regulations on offshore drilling
- Herald Tribune: Keep drilling out of Eastern Gulf
- Jacksonville Daily News: Offshore drilling Handle with care
- Miami Herald: Support for drilling off S. Carolina - but not coastal reps
- Miami Herald: Don't drill, baby!
- Miami Herald: Keep the oceans clean
- Naples Daily News: Offshore Drilling in Gulf Not a Fit for Florida, by Rep. F Rooney (R-FL-19)
- Naples Daily Times: Keep offshore drilling away from Florida
- Ocala Star Banner: The fight over offshore drilling
- Orlando Sentinel: Don't expose Atlantic coast to drilling risks
- Orlando Sentinel: Expand offshore oil, gas drilling? Front Burner
- Pensacola News Journal: The Gulf is our future, protect it: Guestview
- Pensacola News Journal: Some fear rollback of offshore drilling safety checks put in place after huge 2010 BP spill
- Pensacola News Journal: Never forget the tragic lessons of BP's oil spill

- *Sarasota Herald Tribune*: [Prepare to fight over offshore drilling](#)
- *St. Augustine Record*: [Seismic testing Lots of pain, little gain](#)
- *St. Augustine Record*: [Seismic testing, drilling aren't worth the risk](#)
- *Sun Sentinel*: [Trump's drilling plan poses unacceptable risk to Florida](#) | Editorial
- *Sun Sentinel*: [Keep oil drilling away from Florida's beaches](#)
- *Tampa Bay Times*: [Editorial: Don't loosen safety regulations on offshore drilling](#)
- *Tampa Bay Times*: [Trump administration plans to allow drilling off all U.S. waters](#)
- *Tampa Bay Times*: [Close door to drilling off FL's coast](#)
- *Tampa Bay Times*: [Bush, Rubio send wrong signal on oil drilling off Florida](#)
- *TC Palm*: [Congress must preserve moratorium on drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast](#), by Rep. F. Rooney (R-FL-19)
- *WGCU*: [A Move To Ban Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling Gets Underway](#)

Opposition from scientists and advocacy groups

- [225 Nonprofit Organizations and Businesses](#): Sent letter to the U.S. House of Representatives opposing the pro-offshore drilling "ASTRO" Act 11/7/2017
- [66 Nonprofit Organizations](#): Sent letter to U.S. House of Representatives opposing the pro-offshore drilling "SECURE" Act 11/7/2017
- [67 Non-Profit Organizations](#): Sent letter to NOAA 7/21/2017 (seismic blasting)
- [60+ local groups](#): Sent letter to Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) in support of [H.R. 2252](#), a bill that would establish a 10-year moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic, Straits of Florida, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico 6/8/2017 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [38 diverse community groups](#): Sent letter to DOI 5/24/17 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [50+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter led by the Waterkeeper Alliance to President Obama urging him to permanently protect unleased U.S. waters from offshore drilling 12/13/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [Members of the Green Group](#): Sent letter to the U.S. Senate urging them to vote down Senate Bill 3110 sponsored by Senators Vitter and Cassidy 7/5/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [30+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM urging them to redo or supplement the environmental impact statement for offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic 5/26/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [60+ conservation and animal rights groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM urging them to deny pending permits for seismic blasting now that the Atlantic has been removed from the 5-year plan 4/28/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [28 leading marine biologists with specific expertise on the North Atlantic right whale](#): Submitted letter to President Obama to halt the permitting of oil and gas seismic surveys off the East Coast 4/14/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [48 state/regional conservation and civic groups](#): Sent letter to BOEM supporting their decision to remove the Atlantic from consideration for offshore drilling 4/11/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [75 Leading marine scientists](#): Sent letter to the President urging him "to reject the Interior Department's analysis and its decision to introduce seismic oil and gas surveys in the Atlantic," 3/5/2015 (seismic blasting)
- [163 conservation and animal rights groups](#): Submitted letter to President Obama opposing seismic blasting on 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [100+ scientists](#): Sent letter to President Obama urging him to "wait on new science before permitting the use of seismic airguns in the Atlantic Ocean" 2/20/2014 (seismic blasting)