



RESOLUTION NO 2014-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida wishes to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-gun testing is being proposed for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the use of air-guns to conduct these seismic tests threatens to harm and possibly kill fish populations, profitable fisheries and marine mammals, including critically endangered North Atlantic right whales whose population stands at 500 whales in the entire world; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, almost as loud as explosives, at a rate of every one to twelve seconds, twenty-four hours a day for days and weeks on end. The seismic air-gun blasts can be heard for hundreds of miles in the ocean and may drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, seismic air-guns may cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a major economic force in the City of Neptune Beach and offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources and, should a spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the foreseeable futures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA opposes seismic air-gun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast because we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption on the ____ day of _____, 2014.

Harriet Pruette, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karla Strait, CMC, Acting City Clerk