

March 27, 2015

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*Comments on the Draft Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for  
2017-2022 (DPP)*

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Docket IDs: BOEM-2014-0096-0001  
BOEM-2014-0085-0002

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Dear Ms. Hammerle,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022.

We, the undersigned, wish to express opposition to the proposed Atlantic lease sale. The Mid- and South Atlantic should not be opened for oil and gas exploration, leasing, or drilling as the potential environmental impact to our coast is too great.

The numerous environmental impacts of leasing and drilling in the Mid- and South Atlantic far outweigh any potential benefits. The greatest threat is from oil spills that could decimate our clean, natural environment, which is the driver of both our tourism economy and the high quality of life we coastal residents enjoy. The Deepwater Horizon tragedy and its continuing impacts 5 years later exemplify the intrinsic risks in Atlantic offshore drilling—to both the coastal ecosystem and economy.

Furthermore, any consideration of offshore drilling must consider the impacts of corollary onshore infrastructure such as pipelines, refineries, and other heavy industrial development. This type of development would compromise the character of our coast, again jeopardizing the environment, economy, and our quality of life.

Considering how modest the South Atlantic oil and gas resource even is compared to cleaner renewable technologies, we deem the opening of the Mid- and South Atlantic to oil & gas exploration and drilling to be unnecessary and harmful, bringing much more risk than reward to the people living in the areas most likely to be affected.

Please remove the Mid- and South Atlantic from consideration for lease sales in the 2017-2022 leasing program.

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