St. Marys, Georgia

Proclamation

Protesting Seismic Airgun Testing Along the Coast of Georgia

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposes seismic airgun testing along 403 miles of the Atlantic Ocean (encompassing 350,000 square miles) from Delaware Bay to Florida's Cape Canaveral; and

WHEREAS, Seismic airgun testing involves loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed tests may cause destructive impacts to marine wildlife, coastal ecosystems and coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the BOEM acknowledges that seismic airgun testing may negatively impact all marine mammals including the critically endangered Right Whales; and

WHEREAS, the estimated impacts to fisheries and commercial fishing possess the potential to cause irreparable harm to fishing economies which generates $11.8 billion annually and supports 222,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, because of the enormous distances sound can travel in the ocean, the noise from this activity cannot be confined to the waters off individual states, since impacts — particularly on the great baleen whales- could extend many hundreds of miles, potentially affecting states along the east coast. Fish and fisheries could be affected for tens of miles around every seismic ship; and

WHEREAS, the estimated oil reserves in the testing area have not been proven sufficient to offset the potential destruction of oil spills along the Atlantic coast - the proven off-shore Atlantic reserves would be the equivalent of just over seven years' of Gulf oil.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be proclaimed by the City of St. Marys, Georgia, that we are firmly opposed to seismic airgun testing along the Atlantic Coast.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fifteen.

City of St. Marys, Georgia

By: _____
Mayor John F. Morrissey, Mayor

Attest: _____
Deborah Walker-Reed, City Clerk