



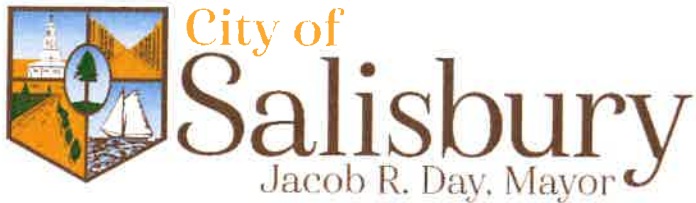
**SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION AGENDA**


APRIL 1, 2019

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING**

- 4:30 p.m. Resolution in opposition to offshore drilling- Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Amanda Pollack
- 4:45 p.m. Resolution to adopt Vision Zero and establish a task force- Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Amanda Pollack
- 5:25 p.m. Council discussion
- 5:30 p.m. Adjournment

*Times shown are approximate. Council reserves the right to adjust the agenda as circumstances warrant.
The Council reserves the right to convene in Closed Session as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland 3-305(b).*



To: Julia Glanz, City Administrator
From: Amanda H. Pollack, P.E., Director of Infrastructure & Development 
Date: March 21, 2019
Re: Resolution – Opposition of Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling

The Department of Infrastructure & Development provides staff support for the Sustainability Advisory Committee (also known as the “Green Team”). In December 2018, the Committee heard a presentation by Oceana regarding offshore drilling and seismic testing. Since that time, a subcommittee has worked on a resolution in opposition to offshore drilling and seismic testing. At the meeting held on March 6, 2019, the Sustainability Advisory Committee passed a motion unanimously to support the resolution and to forward the resolution to the Mayor and City Council. Attached are supporting documentations.

Unless you or the Mayor have further questions, please forward a copy of this memo and the resolution to the City Council. Members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be present at the Council meeting to answer questions.

1 RESOLUTION NO. _____

2
3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND IN OPPOSITION
4 TO OFFSHORE SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS.

5
6 WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury, Maryland was designated a Sustainable
7 Maryland community in 2016; and

8
9 WHEREAS, scientific study has proven that seismic air gun blasting, to explore
10 for oil and gas deposits, disrupts and displaces marine life and threatens our coastal
11 wetlands in Maryland, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous diverse
12 species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important
13 fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surges and hurricanes; and

14
15 WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal
16 communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by
17 routine drilling operations and on shore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of
18 commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and
19 healthy ocean and beaches for a thriving tourism industry; and

20
21 WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such
22 as pipelines and refineries, which would harm the character of Maryland's coastline,
23 perpetuate our ties to carbon pollution, and exacerbate wetland loss, storm surge, and sea
24 level rise impacts; and

25
26 WHEREAS, tourism that is related to the appreciation of our natural coastline and
27 historical environment is a major economic force in the region; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury, Maryland endeavors to be a good steward of
30 the State's environment and its resources.

31
32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SALISBURY CITY
33 COUNCIL that the City opposes offshore oil and gas drilling, and exploration activities,
34 including air gun blasting, in the mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Maryland's coastline.

35
36 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL
37 that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, Maryland's 1st Congressional
38 District House and Senate Delegations to the 116th Congress, the President of the
39 Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.

40
41 THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced, read and passed at the regular
42 meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury held on this ____ day of _____,
43 2019 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

44
45 ATTEST:
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Kimberly R. Nichols, City Clerk

John R. Heath, President
Salisbury City Council

APPROVED BY ME THIS:

_____ day of _____, 2019

Jacob R. Day, Mayor

East Coast opposition

More than 330 municipalities and over 2,100 elected local, state and federal officials have formally opposed offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting, including over 240 along the Atlantic Coast. Numerous fishing and tourism interests, including local chambers of commerce, tourism and restaurant associations, and an alliance representing over 46,000 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 Atlantic 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 offshore oil and gas operations.

Nationwide opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling has been mounting for years. These dirty and dangerous drilling proposals put at risk over [1.5 million East Coast jobs and nearly \\$108 billion](#) in gross domestic product (GDP) that rely on healthy ocean ecosystems and a clean marine environment. [In Maryland alone](#), over 96,000 jobs and roughly \$6 billion in GDP depend on healthy ocean resources, mainly through tourism, fishing and recreation.

For more information, please visit: stopthedrill.org

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

1. [Annapolis](#)
2. [Baltimore](#)
3. [Berlin](#)
4. [Crisfield](#)
5. [Montgomery County](#)
6. [Ocean City](#)
7. [St. Mary's County](#)
8. [Worcester County](#)

Opposition from Maryland business interests

- [Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce](#): Put out statement opposing any form of seismic testing in offshore waters 1/15/2019
- [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
- [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)
- [Greater Ocean City, MD Chamber of Commerce](#): Sent letter to President Obama 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)
- [Ocean City, MD Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association](#): Sent letter to BOEM 2/29/2016 (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)
- [Ocean City, MD Chamber of Commerce](#): Sent letter to Governor Hogan 1/25/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)

National security stakeholders

- [DoD Report on Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico](#): Outlines the negative impact offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico would have on military readiness activities. (05/11/2018)
- [Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance](#): sent letter to Secretary Zinke strongly opposing any offshore drilling activities that could jeopardize the military's ability to conduct operations and training off the coast of Virginia 1/29/2018 (offshore drilling)
- [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 fishing interests in the Mid-Atlantic 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.
- [Mid-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 4/25/17
- [Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association](#): Sent letter to President opposing offshore oil exploration and development in the Atlantic 11/10/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)

- [Snook and Gamefish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM opposing offshore oil exploration in the Atlantic 8/30/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [36 commercial and recreational fishing interests in the Mid-Atlantic](#): Sent letter to the governors of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, expressing their concerns with offshore drilling and proposed seismic airgun blasting 3/29/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Mid-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 2/17/2016 ([Read the full policy](#))
- [Fisheries Survival Fund](#): Sent letter to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council expressing concern 8/7/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [Billfish Foundation](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/7/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/2/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [International Game Fish Association](#): Sent letter to BOEM 5/1/2014 (seismic blasting)

Opposition from Maryland elected officials and key stakeholders

- [9 Attorneys General](#): Lead by Attorney General Frosh (MD), they announced on 12/20/2018 that they will be intervening in the lawsuit to stop the proposed use of air guns to survey the Atlantic Ocean floor for oil and gas. Attorneys General from Delaware, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maine joined the suit.
- [The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean](#): sent a letter to NOAA opposing offshore drilling and the issuance of permits for seismic airgun blasting 12/20/2018.
- [10 Atlantic State Governors](#): sent a letter to Secretaries Ross and Zinke to express their opposition to seismic airgun surveys and oil and gas drilling off the coast. They urged the Department of the Interior to deny permits for seismic airgun surveys in the Atlantic. 12/20/2018
- [227 state legislators representing 17 coastal states](#): Sent letter to Secretary Zinke opposing the Draft Proposed Program 3/5/2018
- [Maryland Governor Hogan and North Carolina Governor Cooper](#): Published joint op-ed demonstrating strong bipartisan opposition to Trump's offshore drilling plan 2/2/2018 (offshore drilling)
- [7 East Coast Governors](#): sent letter to Secretary Zinke expressing joint opposition to the inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean in the proposed 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 1/17/2018 (offshore drilling)
- [7 East Coast Governors, including Maryland Governor Hogan](#): Sent letter to Secretary Zinke expressing joint opposition to the inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean in the proposed 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 1/17/18 (offshore drilling)
- [Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh](#): Submitted RFI comments strongly opposing any efforts to open up the Mid-Atlantic OCS lease area to oil and gas exploration and drilling 8/17/2017
- [The Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#): Submitted RFI comments on behalf of the Hogan Administration opposing offshore oil and gas drilling and expressing serious concerns about seismic surveys and testing in the Atlantic Ocean 8/16/2017
- [Maryland Governor Larry Hogan](#): Sent letter to BOEM 8/16/2017 (offshore drilling); [letter of concern to NOAA](#) 7/6/2017 (seismic blasting)

- [Attorneys General of Maryland, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island](#): sent [letter to NOAA](#) 7/21/2017 (seismic blasting)
- [Assateague Coastal Trust, MD](#): Sent letter to President Obama 11/15/2016 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [42 state and local elected officials from Maryland led by Senator Raskin, Delegate Lierman and Council Member Hucker](#): Sent letter to DOI 8/2/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [70 State Legislators led by Representatives Harrison and Jones, and Senators Campsen and Jackson](#): Sent letter to DOI 7/26/2016 (seismic blasting)
- [83 East Coast State Legislators, led by State Representative Pricey Harrison](#): Sent letter to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling)
- [Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh](#): Sent letter to BOEM 3/30/2015 (offshore drilling and seismic blasting)
- [95 state and local elected officials](#): Submitted letter to President Obama opposing seismic blasting on 5/6/2014 (seismic blasting)
- [Maryland \(Former\) Governor Martin O'Malley](#): Sent letter to DOI 2/26/2014 (offshore drilling); [Wrote an op-ed](#) in the New York Times 2/2/2015 (offshore drilling)

Congressional letters of opposition with Maryland members

- [23 Senators](#): sent a letter, led by Senator Markey (D-MA), to Secretaries Ross and Zinke to express opposition to the issuance of five incidental harassment authorization (IHA) permits that would allow companies to conduct seismic airgun blasting surveys along the Atlantic coast.
- [93 U.S. Representatives](#): sent a bipartisan letter led by Congressman Rutherford (R-FL) to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross expressing strong opposition to the issuance of 5 Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) permits to companies planning to conduct seismic airgun blasting surveys along the Atlantic coast 12/6/2018.
- [Maryland Delegation led by Senator Cardin](#): Sent a bipartisan letter to Secretary Zinke and Dr. Cruickshank strongly opposing the Draft Proposed Program 2/27/2018
- [Maryland House Democrats](#): Sent letter to Maryland Governor Hogan urging him to ask Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to remove MD from the Draft Proposed Program 1/19/18 (offshore drilling)
- [U.S. Senators Cardin and Van Hollen](#): Sent a letter to MD Governor Hogan urging him to request a Coastal Zone Management Act consultation for new seismic airgun blasting permit applications off the coast of Maryland 6/30/2017
- [103 U.S. Representatives led by Reps. Rutherford \(R-FL\) & Beyer \(D-VA\)](#): Sent a bipartisan letter to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him not to authorize Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) and deny 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 requested the agency extend the public comment period, and hold field hearings 6/9/2017
- [107 U.S. Representatives led by Reps. LoBiondo \(R-NJ\), & 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 5/11/2017

- [14 U.S. Senators](#): Sent letter asking President Obama to permanently protect the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans from any future offshore oil and gas leasing 10/6/2016 (offshore drilling)
- [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)
- [10 U.S. Senators](#): Sent a letter to DOI asking not to issue any new leases in federal waters 2/3/2016 (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)
- [8 members of Maryland's congressional delegation](#): Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 7/31/2014
- [9 U.S. Senators](#): Sent letter to DOI requesting that the seismic airgun PEIS not be released without incorporation of the "best available science" 2/26/2014
- [8 U.S. Senators](#): Sent letter to President Obama opposing seismic testing 1/30/2013

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

Editorials in Maryland

- *Baltimore Sun*: [Offshore drilling is a loser](#)
- *Baltimore Sun*: [Offshore Drilling- All Risk, No Reward](#)
- *Cecil Whig*: [Seismic testing off coast ill-advised](#)
- *Delmarva Now*: [Our view: Imposing offshore drilling on unwilling states a recipe for disaster](#)

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)

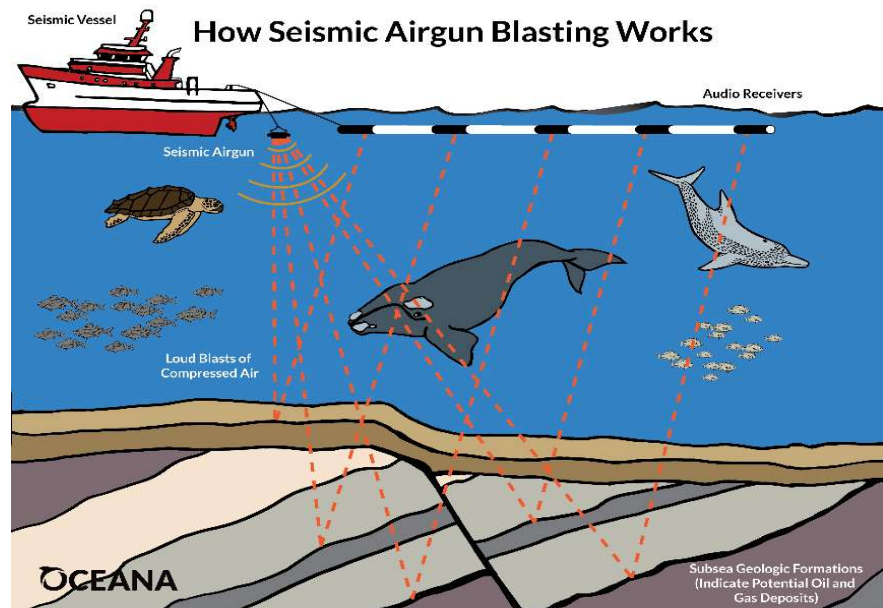


Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration: Seismic Airgun Blasting

Seismic airgun blasting is a process used to search for and map oil and gas deposits deep below the seafloor. A typical seismic survey involves a ship traveling across the ocean in successive parallel lines while towing one or more seismic airgun arrays. These airguns create one of the loudest sources of noise in the oceans, behind explosives for military testing and shipping.¹

How does seismic airgun blasting work?

Seismic airguns release pressurized air blasts to create powerful sound waves that travel through the water column² and seabed, and provide information about the seafloor.³ These sound waves travel as echoes back to the surface, where they are captured by audio monitors called hydrophones.⁴



Seismic airgun blasting characteristics:

- Loud blasts repeated every 10-12 seconds⁵ for days, weeks, or months at a time.⁶
- 12-48 individual airguns are towed in each array; a single ship can tow up to 96 airguns.⁷
- The surface area covered by the largest seismic array was 21 times larger than the National Mall in Washington, D.C.⁸
- Seismic airgun sounds can be heard up to 2,500 miles from the source under some conditions, approximately the distance of a flight from New York to Los Angeles.⁹

Why is seismic airgun blasting a problem?

Not only is seismic airgun blasting the first step toward dirty and dangerous offshore drilling, but the process itself is harmful to marine life. Seismic airguns produce repetitive, explosive sounds that can travel over large distances.¹⁰ Because sound travels so efficiently underwater, airgun blasts can be heard far from their sources.¹¹ As the sound waves from the individual seismic blasts move away from the airguns, they merge into continuous noise pollution that drowns out other sounds in the ocean.

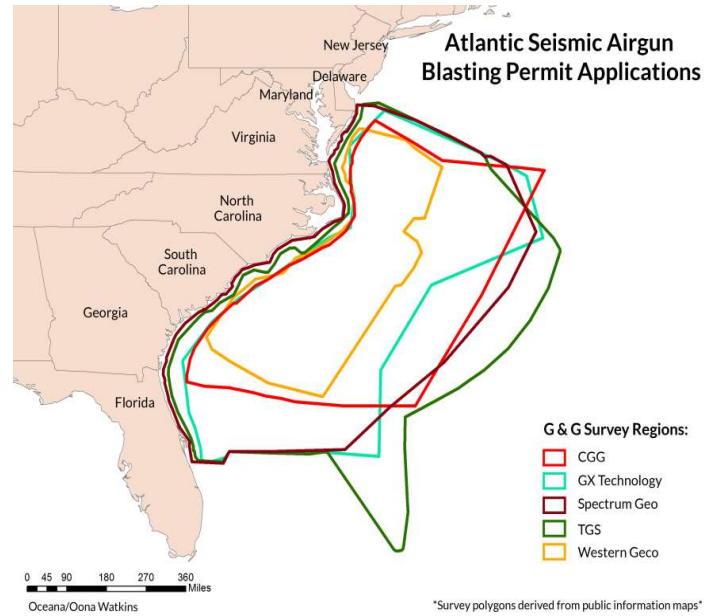


Where is seismic airgun blasting being considered?

On April 28, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13797 aimed at expanding offshore drilling and exploration in U.S. waters.¹² The order calls for a review of the current Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (for 2017-2022) and directs the responsible agencies to fast-track the permitting process for seismic airgun blasting.

Following that directive, the Department of the Interior reversed a decision made in January 2017 to deny seismic airgun blasting permits in an area twice the size of California, stretching from Delaware to Florida.¹³ The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is now reconsidering issuing those permits. Concurrently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration resumed evaluation of incidental take authorizations that would grant seismic survey companies permission to harm marine mammals.

If approved, seismic airgun permits would allow overlapping seismic surveys along the Atlantic coast that could result in even more severe impacts to marine life.



Permits for Atlantic seismic surveys being reviewed by BOEM.

Biological impacts of seismic airgun blasting: Overview

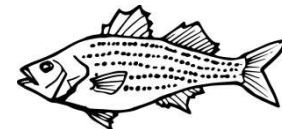
Seismic airgun noise can have significant and wide-ranging impacts on fish, shellfish, whales and sea turtles. According to the government's own estimates, seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic could harm or harass marine mammals like dolphins and whales hundreds of thousands of times, and could disturb the vital activities of millions more.¹⁴

Fish

Fish species vary in their ability to detect and use sound, and seismic airgun noise therefore has a range of impacts on fish species. Seismic airgun noise elicits varying degrees of startle and alarm responses in fish, including escape responses, and changes in schooling patterns, water column positions and swim speeds.¹⁵

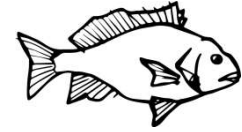
Examples include:

- 40-80 percent reduced catch rates in Atlantic cod, haddock, rockfish, herring, sand eel and blue whiting.^{16 17 18 19 20}
- 78 percent decline in reef fish abundance during evening hours, the time of day when fish habitat use is typically highest for the study area.²¹





- Behavioral responses in cod, such as swimming away from seismic sources, and damaged hearing structures in pink snapper.²²
- Elevated stress hormones and chemicals in sea bass.²³
- Schools of some fish species, including blue whiting, moving lower in the water column, which could take extra energy or displace the fish from behaviors needed for survival.²⁴



Invertebrates (shellfish)

Invertebrate exposure to seismic noise can cause physical injury and mortality at near-distances and impede development of early life history stages.

Examples include:

- Significant increase in mortality for scallops exposed to seismic airgun noise, particularly over long periods of time.^{25 26}
- Stress responses, including physiological changes, in bivalves, which are clam-like species.²⁷
- Slower development rates in crabs²⁸ and scallop larvae²⁹ after repeated exposure to nearby seismic sound.
- Damage to small organs that control balance and orientation in rock lobsters³⁰ and spiny lobsters,³¹ up to a year after seismic airgun blasting occurred.
- Distinctive finching response and persistent alterations in reflex behavior for scallops following exposure to seismic airguns.³²
- Sensory and internal organ damage in seven stranded giant squid after nearby seismic surveys.³³
- Significant decrease in zooplankton abundance, and a two- to threefold increase in dead adult and larval zooplankton at distances of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from seismic source.³⁴

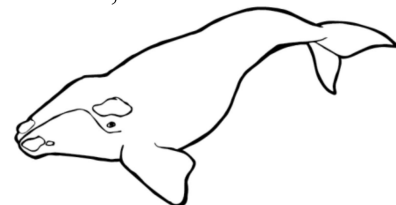


Whales

Marine mammals rely on sound for feeding, communication, navigation and other behaviors necessary for survival. Seismic airgun noise can cause hearing impairment as well as physiological and behavioral changes.³⁵ These include avoidance, displacement, communication masking, vocalization changes and chronic stress, which could cause increases in stress hormones,³⁶ lead to behavioral changes, and reduce effectiveness of the immune system.³⁷

Examples include:

- Changes in Bowhead Whale breathing patterns, avoidance and silencing of calls, which could interrupt communication between whales, including mothers, calves and potential mates.^{38 39 40}
- Declines in the feeding rates of Sperm Whales.⁴¹
- Altered Fin Whale vocalizations, which are important for communication, and abandonment of habitat.⁴²





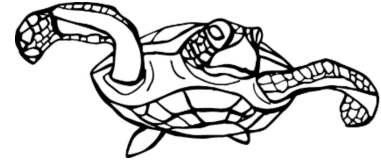
- Responses of North Atlantic Right Whale to other sources of low-frequency noise demonstrates that noise may be associated with increases in stress-related hormones in baleen whales.⁴³

Sea Turtles

Sea turtle hearing range overlaps with the higher frequency noises from seismic airguns. Studies show that seismic airgun noise can negatively affect sea turtles.

Examples include:

- Increases in erratic swimming behavior.⁴⁴
- Responses, including swimming away from the noise source, suggesting avoidance of seismic noise.⁴⁵
- Risk of entanglement in survey equipment.⁴⁶



Conclusion

The United States should protect the diverse array of whales, fish, turtles and invertebrates that live along the Atlantic coast and are threatened by proposed seismic airgun blasting. The potential damage to marine animals and ecosystems, and the communities and industries that depend on these resources, is too great to risk.

The National Marine Fisheries Service should not approve Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) nor should the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approve the permits for seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic. If the IHAs and seismic permits are approved, Oceana recommends the following mitigation practices to minimize harm to marine life:

- Sharing of data between companies, the government and the public so seismic airgun blasting happens only once and impacts are minimized.
- Require that companies fund third party passive acoustic monitoring before, during and after seismic airgun blasting to observe any effects on marine life, archive acoustic data recordings and immediately stop seismic airgun surveys if animals are detected during the surveys.
- Require third party visual observers to watch for whales, dolphins and sea turtles before, during and after the seismic airgun surveys, record sightings and immediately stop seismic airgun blasting if animals are within view.
- Do not conduct seismic airgun blasting during endangered and threatened species calving or nesting seasons, or in Critical Habitat areas, Essential Fish Habitat, or in other areas important to the survival of fish, invertebrates, sea turtles or marine mammals.

Citations can be found here:

http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/662/seismic_fact_sheet_long_final_7-25.pdf

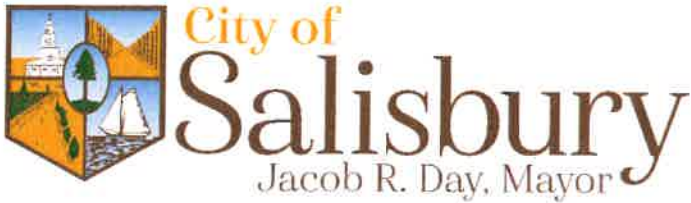


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To: Julia Glanz, City Administrator
From: Amanda Pollack, P.E., Director of Infrastructure and Development *AP*
Date: March 20, 2019
Re: Resolutions to adopt Vision Zero and establish a Task Force

As discussed at the March 18, 2019 City Council work session, the Department of Infrastructure and Development supports the adoption of Vision Zero as the City's Traffic and Engineering Policy. The City has received support from both MDOT-SHA District 1 and MDOT-MVA. Vision Zero prioritizes system-wide safety over speed and throughput. Vision Zero principals are based on National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guides for engineering best practices.

Attached is a resolution to adopt Vision Zero as the City's Traffic and Engineering Policy and to establish a Task Force. The resolution establishes the goals of ending traffic fatalities and serious injuries by January 1, 2030 and to have a Vision Zero Action Plan adopted by July 1, 2020. Additionally, annual progress reports will be due to Council in July of each year.

The Department of Infrastructure and Development supports the creation of a Vision Zero Task Force to direct the City's Vision Zero efforts and coordinate actions with the City's jurisdictional partners. Vision Zero is a complex policy that crosses between various City departments and will necessitate working with our partner agencies, such as Maryland Department of Transportation-State Highway Administration, Maryland State Police, Salisbury University and others. Due to the level of coordination, it is imperative that a Task Force be formed to oversee the effort. We recommend that the Task Force be have flexibility in its organization so that it can work with as many partner agencies as are willing to participate. The Task Force will be asked to review and assist with the Vision Zero Action Plan and the annual progress reports. Additionally, the Task Force will be asked to provide a recommendation on any future legislation such as speed limit reduction or eliminating free right turns.

Unless you or the Mayor has further questions, please forward a copy of this memo and the resolution to the City Council.

1 RESOLUTION NO. _____

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND ADOPTING VISION ZERO AS
3 THE CITY’S TRAFFIC AND ENGINEERING POLICY AND ESTABLISHING A VISION ZERO
4 TASK FORCE.

5
6 WHEREAS, the Salisbury Charter (SC11-2) gives the City charge of all public ways of the City,
7 excepting those under State or County jurisdiction; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury desires to pursue an end to traffic fatalities and serious injuries
10 within the City’s limits; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that all people have a fundamental right to safe and equitable
13 transportation networks via foot, bicycle, transit or automobile; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that there are no traffic “accidents” and that every traffic-derived
16 collision, injury or fatality is preventable; and

17
18 WHEREAS, it is the express goal of the City to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries
19 by January 1, 2030; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the most effective way to prevent traffic fatalities is to work
22 at the systemic level of the transportation system by improving corridors and neighborhoods; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Vision Zero is an internationally recognized and proven way to reduce traffic
25 fatalities and serious injuries; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the City desires to adopt Vision Zero as the City’s Traffic and Engineering Policy
28 for all public ways in the City for which the City has jurisdiction; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the City Council determined that a Task Force could be helpful in advising the City
31 and overseeing all Vision Zero efforts; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Task Force shall collect, analyze and act on crash and street data in
34 order to prepare the Vision Zero Action Plan and recommend policy related to Vision Zero; and

35
36 WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Task Force may consist of members from the following
37 organizations:

- 38 City of Salisbury Mayor and Administration
- 39 City of Salisbury Department of Infrastructure and Development
- 40 City of Salisbury Department of Field Operations
- 41 City of Salisbury Police Department
- 42 City of Salisbury Fire Department
- 43 City of Salisbury Department of Information Services
- 44 City of Salisbury Housing and Community Development Department
- 45 City of Salisbury Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee
- 46 City of Salisbury Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

47 Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration
48 Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Highway Safety Office
49 Maryland State Police
50 Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office
51 Salisbury University
52 Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee
53

54 WHEREAS, the Council requires that the City of Salisbury Vision Zero Action Plan be presented
55 to Council by the Director of the Infrastructure and Development Department and adopted no later than
56 July 1, 2020 with the Plan subsequently updated every five years; and
57

58 WHEREAS, the Director of the Infrastructure and Development Department shall make a yearly
59 progress report to Council in an open forum prior to July 31st every year, beginning in July 2020.
60

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND that
62 for the purposes and reasons hereinabove set forth, the City of Salisbury adopts Vision Zero as the City’s
63 traffic and engineering policy and establishes a Vision Zero Task Force.
64

65 THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced, read and passed at the regular meeting of the
66 Council of the City of Salisbury held on this ____ day of _____, 2019 and is to become effective
67 immediately upon adoption.
68

69 ATTEST:

70
71 _____
72 Kimberly R. Nichols, City Clerk

71 _____
72 John R. Heath, City Council President

73
74 Approved by me, this _____ day of _____, 2019.
75

76 _____
77 Jacob R. Day, Mayor