



# PSA-019-Offshore Drilling-Atlantic

How do we save coral reefs?

Vic Ferguson

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation 281.971.7703 P.O. Box 311117 Houston Texas 77231

## Surfrider Foundation Opposes Obama Administration Five-Year Plan to Open Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic and Arctic

January 27, 2015

SAN CLEMENTE, CA--(Marketwired - January 27, 2015) - Today, the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) released its Draft Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017 through 2022, which includes plans for offshore drilling in the Mid- and South Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic oceans. The Surfrider Foundation, a leading non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, is deeply dismayed by the decision.

Pete Stauffer, Senior Ocean Program Manager for the Surfrider Foundation, issued the following statement in reaction to the decision:

"The Surfrider Foundation is strongly opposed to the expansion of offshore drilling off the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. It is a dirty and dangerous practice that threatens the health of our oceans and coastal communities.

"Oil and gas development in the Atlantic would require seismic surveys, drilling operations, oil transport by tankers, and the installation of platforms, pipelines, and other infrastructure. Collectively these activities would significantly damage both the environment and related economies, while exposing the East Coast to the risk of a catastrophic oil spill.

"On behalf of more than 250,000 Surfrider Foundation members and supporters, including 25 local chapters from Maine to Florida who vigorously oppose offshore drilling in the Atlantic, we call upon the Obama Administration to cancel plans for offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

"Surfrider strongly supports the Administration's draft leasing plans to protect the West Coast from offshore drilling. The marine ecosystem and coastal economies of California, Oregon, and Washington would be significantly harmed by new offshore oil and gas development. The decision by the Obama Administration to exclude the West Coast is consistent with long standing opposition from state and federal leaders, coastal communities, and ocean stakeholders."

On July 31, 2014, the Surfrider Foundation submitted comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in support of the protection of the Atlantic Coast, Pacific Coast, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and Alaska from any oil and gas lease sales in the 2017-2022 OCS Oil and Gas Program. To read the full comment letter, [click here](#).

Today's announcement launches a 60-day public comment period to BOEM on the Draft Five Year Program. Details can be found at [www.boem.gov/](http://www.boem.gov/). The Surfrider Foundation encourages all citizens concerned with the health of our oceans and coastal economies to participate in this opportunity.

***As the Senior Ocean Program Manager, Pete Stauffer leads the Surfrider Foundation's engagement in ocean issues such as offshore drilling, marine protected areas, ocean planning, and renewable energy.***

### About Surfrider Foundation

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 250,000 supporters, activists and members



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worldwide. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, visit [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org). For the latest news, happenings,  
photos and video, follow @surfrider on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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