

**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
RESOLUTION 15-09**

**Resolution in Opposition to Offshore Gas and Oil Exploration and Drilling off the North Carolina Coast**

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Department of the Interior includes the waters off North Carolina in their proposed exploration and development of offshore oil and gas off the Atlantic Coast; and,

**WHEREAS**, Holden Beach's tourism based economy, along with the local fishing industry and quality of life depends on the health and welfare of our natural resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, many of Holden Beach's surrounding natural areas provide sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, whales, fish and other forms of wildlife; and,

**WHEREAS**, because the most generous estimates of the oil located in the mid-Atlantic leasing area are inconsequential when compared to global supplies, drilling off the North Carolina coast will have no significant impact on energy prices; and,

**WHEREAS**, even a complete harvesting of all oil and natural gas resources in the mid-Atlantic leasing area would do nothing to reduce our nation's dependency on foreign oil; and,

**WHEREAS**, the inherent risks to our region from offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm our natural environment, our economic wellbeing and our overall quality of life; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are no revenue sharing arrangements in place that would compensate North Carolina coastal communities for the environmental risks taken in pursuit of offshore oil and natural gas; and,

**WHEREAS**, barring proven gross negligence, the cap for damages in the event of an accident sits at \$75 million; and,

**WHEREAS**, the estimated revenues from offshore exploration and mining of oil and natural gas fall far below the anticipated growth of revenues directly related to North Carolina's tourism industry; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Holden Beach stands with numerous other coastal North Carolina municipalities in their pursuit of shoreline protection and preservation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH** that the Town formally opposes exploration, including seismic testing and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina.

This the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

Attest:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk