



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Our place of business includes fishermen and divers. There is a full service Marina and dive shop on premises. We are privileged to have access to the Atlantic Ocean - the NY bight in particular. We have worked hard to improve conditions off shore, which had degraded due to activities of sewage sludge disposal, acid waste, woodburning and more. We recently were able to stop LNG installations. We will work just as hard to prevent your proposed seismic surveys.

As the song says "When will we ever learn?" Degradation of our oceans is rampant and must stop. We are fouling our own nest, and should use our technical resources to move toward sustainable, renewable and smart ways to provide our energy needs. To do so will create new, American businesses. At the same time we would show respect for Mother Earth and preserve that which we have been so generously given. Future generations deserve our absolute dedication to this goal.

Seismic Surveys, oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic Coast must never happen

Name: Adelaide S Franklin
 Title: president
 Organization: Main One Marina, Inc
 Address: 1 Main St
 City, State, & Zip Code: Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ 07717

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

TPM

26 April 2012

Last summer my son & I
swam along side a sea turtle.

Off shore drilling damages
our marine wildlife. We
are residents of Carolina Beach, NC.

Please don't ruin this for
our children & future generations.

We urge you to support Alternatives

C. Thank you,

Alisa D. Perry

Cian Perry





SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club
100 West 10th Street, Suite 106
Wilmington, DE 19801

April 26, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Comments on Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)
Atlantic Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities
Public Hearing: Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Goeke,

The Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes high intensity seismic testing of the Atlantic Continental shelf for oil and gas exploration. This action would place the nation as a whole, the State of Delaware, and the ocean's aquatic biodiversity at risk; a risk that we assert is too dangerous for us to take.

We are at a crossroads in our nation's energy policy, with tremendous opportunities to develop renewable energy resources that can provide energy to our nation without the devastating pollution and climate impacts of fossil fuels (Komor, 2004; Nye, 2001; Scheer, 2007; Tertzakian and Hollihan, 2009). Pursuit of the development of offshore oil and gas exploration diverts us from the needed task at hand.

Climate change poses serious risks to the State of Delaware. With miles of coastline and large expanses of low-lying areas, Delaware is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (Frumhoff et al., 2007; Karl, Melillo and Peterson, 2009; Titus et al., 2009). The nation's continued commitment to developing fossil-based energy resources places the State of Delaware at a disproportionate risk of sea level rise.

The lesson of the Deepwater Horizon's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico two years ago should inspire caution about the development of offshore oil and gas (Ladd, 2012; Mascarelli, 2012; Skogdalen and Vinnem, 2012; Sumaila et al., 2012). Delaware's coastal and aquatic resources provide tremendous value to our state (DNREC, 2004; Kauffman et al., 2011), which would be harmed in the case of an oil spill. Deepwater Horizon has proven the risks of such activities.

High intensity seismic testing itself places wildlife at risk. The Draft PEIS claims that these risks are moderate, minor or negligible, though we disagree. Acoustic pollution has been demonstrated to cause significant impacts on aquatic life. Declarations of the safety of the proposed high-intensity seismic testing, such as those asserted in the Draft PEIS, have not been proven in peer-reviewed scientific literature (Parsons et al., 2009; Popper et al., 2005; Slabbekoorn et al., 2010; Weilgart, 2007).

A tremendous proportion of aquatic life depends upon the continental shelves for foraging, habitat and reproduction. Seismic testing places not only endangered whales and sea turtles directly at risk with noise pollution, but it also threatens the multitude of species for which life within the aquatic environment depends.

We ask that the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management protect the State of Delaware and the marine environment upon which we depend by prohibiting seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development in the Atlantic coastal region.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Roe".

Amy Roe, Ph.D.
Energy and Environmental Policy
Sierra Club
Delaware Chapter
Conservation Chair

References:

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4/27/12

Dear Mr. Gary,

I'm writing to you to express my opinion on alternative A, B, and C. I don't think A is a very good option to choose. Although the Right Whales are a very, very, restricted part to hunt, they're other animals that need good protection too. Alternative C is an OK option, but commercial fishers need to make money. B I think is an option, but with a little twist. But not just 'somewhat more' protection, get a lot of protection. Commercial fishers could only kill a well-populated species of fish, and would harm nothing else, until other technology is produced, so no harm comes to the animals when we are exploring.

I hope you take my opinion into account, Mr. Goeke.

Take Care,
Camille Lorie



April 4,2012

Dear Mr. Gary D. Geoke,

I have to go with Alternative C because we need to stop people from affecting the right Whales. We need to start protecting the Right whales because we don't want these whales to die. I think Alternative C is the safest. Please think about my future. I'm only eight and I'm worried about the NC coast.

Sincerely,

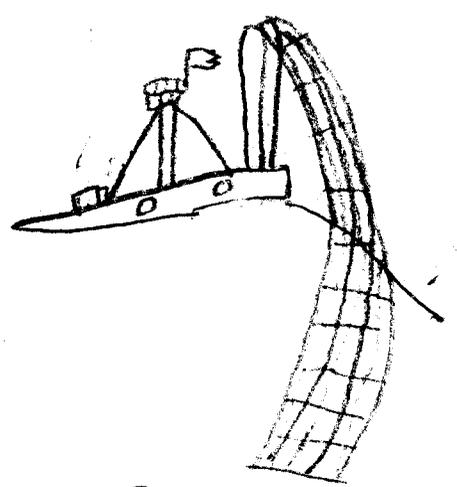
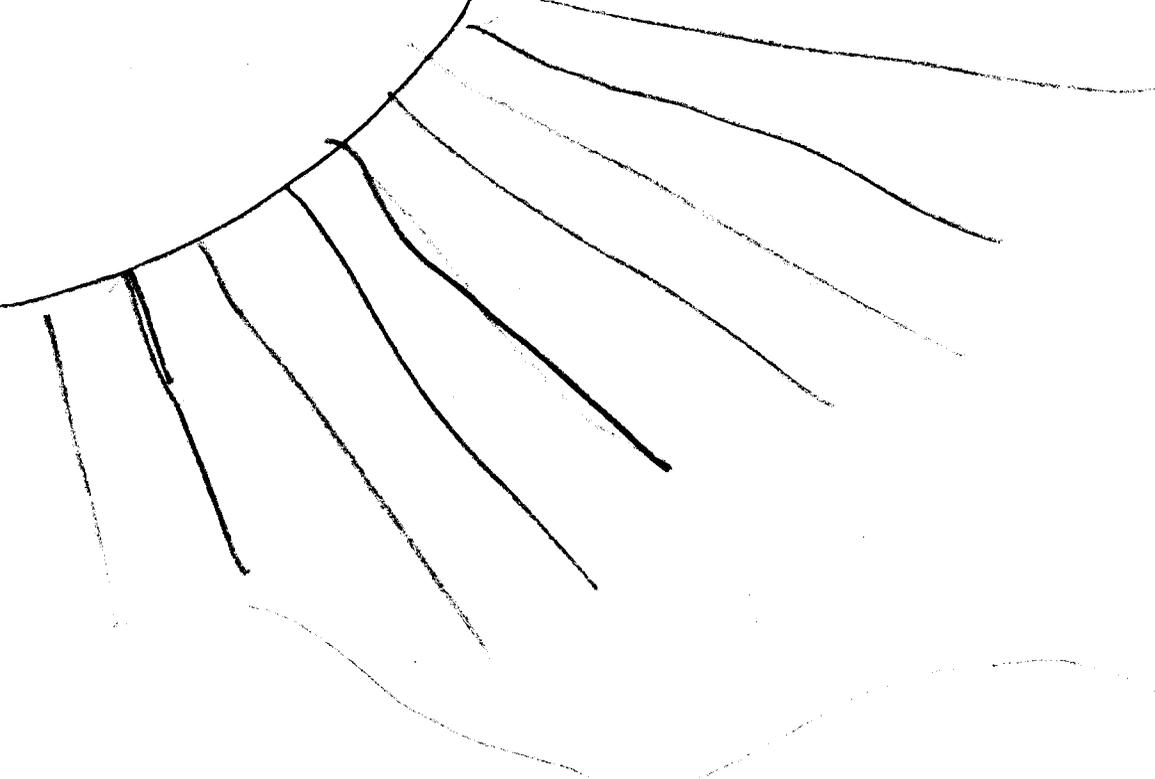
Carissa

Carissa

3rd grader

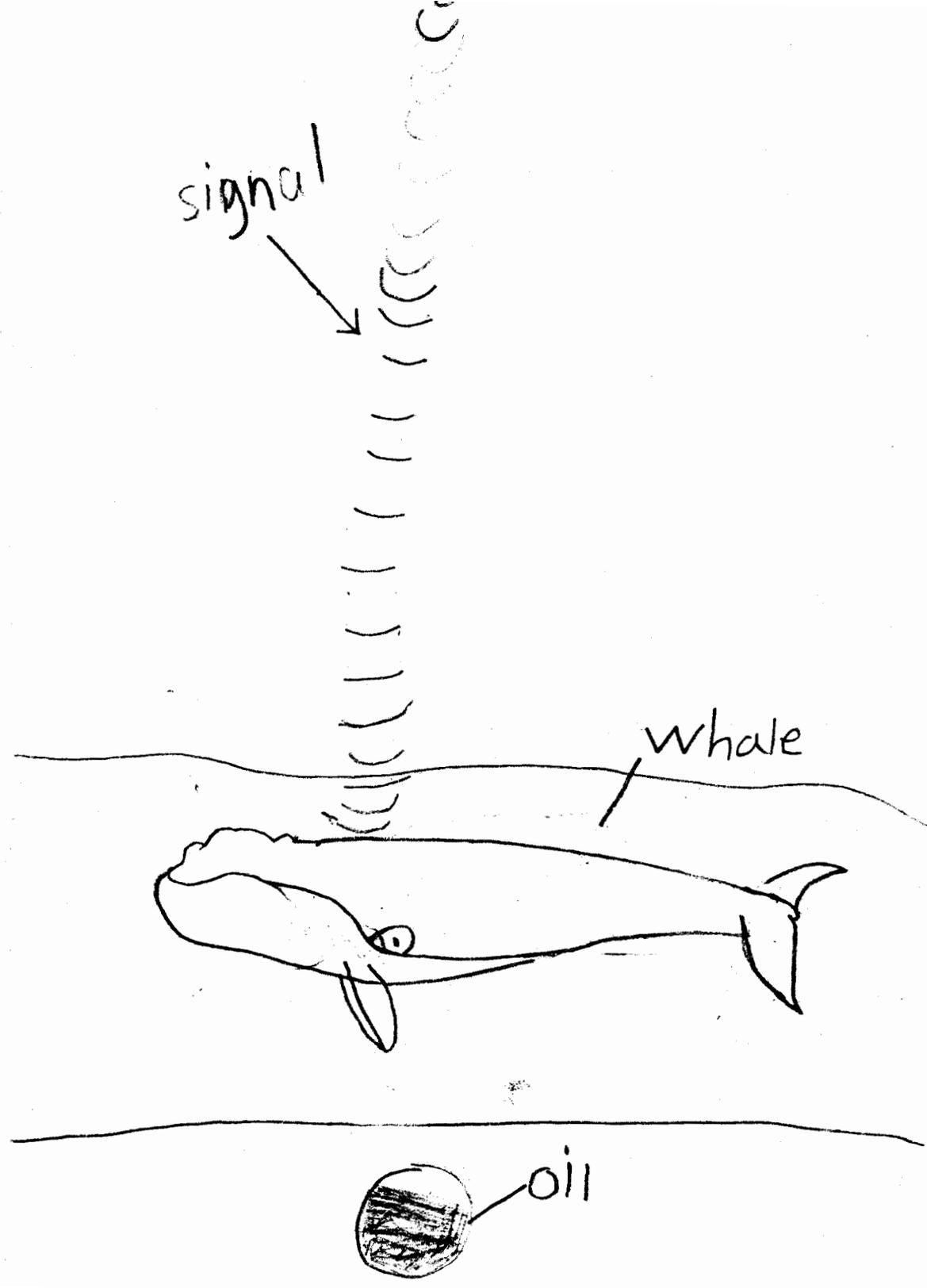
Friends School of Wilmington

Sandpiper Class



Dear Mr. Gary D. Geake, I Support Alternative
C because we should stop at all
costs! Because we are hurting the environment
so much and we need to stop.

form,
Carlson
3rd grader
Friends school at Wilmington





**Palmetto
AgriBusiness
Council**

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602 Meeting St.
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(803) 926-3462 Fax

April 20, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke:

I am writing on behalf of Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC) in support of exploring the possibility of offshore drilling for energy sources off the coast of South Carolina. PABC represents some of the largest agribusiness employers in SC with a mission to sustain the economic viability of our state's largest industry.

Being located in a state that boundaries our great Atlantic Ocean provides our region of the United States an opportunity to be a contributor to our nation's fuel supply stability. Safe off-shore exploration of additional fuel supplies could also have the ability to capture untapped natural resources that could assist in reducing the price of our much needed fuel supply.

It is our belief that there is not a single silver bullet that will reduce fuel prices, maintain stability and totally remove our dependency on fuel oil.....but we do, however, ascertain that it will take a variety of alternatives and renewables to help our nation move forward in making positive energy strides. Best practices in wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and traditional production are ALL very much needed.

Food harvesting, production and transportation are heavily dependent on energy. Exploration of many fuel alternatives can serve to assist us in finding ways to reduce the cost of food to consumers and discourage the importing of foods that are not as tightly regulated and therefore as safe as what we can produce here in our own back yards.

We are requesting an opportunity.....an opportunity to update, through new survey techniques, decades of old data that could result in providing our nation another source of a much needed energy supply. The first step to develop our offshore resources is approval of seismic surveys in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The knowledge gained would help support leasing, drilling and development that could mean creating thousands of jobs and billions in revenue. In fact, studies show that developing our own energy resources in offshore waters and other federally controlled areas could create 530,000 new jobs. All businesses and consumers would benefit

PABC
Domestic Energy Letter
Page 2

from a greater supply of domestically produced fuel strengthening America's energy security and keeping energy costs under control.

In South Carolina, we have just now begun to develop strategies to increase the economic impact of agribusiness, which contributes \$34 billion to the state's economy and provides 200,000 jobs. If we are to sustain and expand our industry, we must find solutions to surging energy costs that have the potential of putting us out of business at the expense of consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy B. Novinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being the most prominent.

Cathy B. Novinger
Executive Director

/sb

April 27th, 2012.

Dear Mr. Gary D. Beake,

I am a fourth grader
in Wilmington, NC.

Can you please notice
that the alternative A would
like to proceed with is
most likely to hurt marine
animals and other wild
life.

I would like you to
choose C. It would help
me and my class-mates
future. I would like my

future decided on C.

Thank you for

Reading.

Sincerely,
Charlotte

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Re: Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities

Dear Mr. Goeke:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Atlantic G&G activities PEIS. As a North Carolina constituent adjacent to the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas, I encourage BOEM to adopt Alternative C—the no action alternative—in its programmatic environmental impact statement. My concerns regarding the potential impacts oil and gas exploration and development could have on the Atlantic coast's natural environment, tourism and fishing industries, and the coastal area quality of life follow.

The Atlantic coast currently enjoys a vibrant tourism industry and thriving fisheries that contribute significantly to both our quality of life and economy. Tens of thousands of people are employed in the fishing industry, and commercial and recreational fishing account for tens of billions of dollars in sales per year. Our region's tourism and recreation industry generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue per year and employs hundreds of thousands of coastal residents.

Not only are our economies quite dependent on the vitality of our coastal resources, I also value our coastal heritage and am proud of the coastal region's natural beauty. Maintaining a healthy coast free from industrial pollutants is of the utmost importance to our region. I want to preserve the integrity of our beaches, marshes, and waterways for our coastal residents and the many tourists who come to share our enjoyment of these special places.

Offshore geological and geophysical (G & G) activities and eventual drilling pose serious risks to the marine and coastal environment. Any such efforts must be altered to conform to the greater priority of maintaining our coastal resources. Acoustic pollution caused by oil and gas G & G activities such as the use of airguns, aeromagnetic surveys, and the drilling of test wells has proven associations with major impacts to marine mammals, turtles, and fish. Waterborne pollution such as drilling fluid and potential test well blowouts further risk compromising the health of our waters. The vitality of aquatic ecosystems, and the concomitant beauty of our region, is a *sine qua non* for our fishers, shrimpers, and crabbers, tourist visitors, and our coastal residents' way of life.

As I cannot support eventual commercial oil or gas drilling off our coast following some proposed exploration process, I feel that licenses to conduct geo-surveys directed to those products would be a wasteful investment of time, money, and energy. In the wake of the Gulf oil disaster, as well as the many other lesser-known blowouts and rig incidents that occur every year, I believe that these risks alone are enough to outweigh the benefits of drilling. Clean renewable energy sources, including the development of offshore wind energy, are becoming less expensive and are a much smarter long-term investment than risky offshore drilling.

Since offshore oil and gas prospecting and potential eventual drilling would be harmful and risky to our coastal economy, natural beauty, and way of life, I urge you to implement Alternative C and not allow G & G activities for oil and gas in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Christopher A. Berg
retired planner (Greenville County, SC)



April 20, 2012

Re: "Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities"

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCR Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke,

I write today on behalf of Citizens for Sound Conservation to voice our strong support for the proposed G&G activities off the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). As an organization dedicated to promoting an appropriate balance between economic growth and responsible usage of our natural resources, we don't take this issue lightly. Our supporters include a wide variety of business interests who have studied this issue and believe that seismic studies and associated G&G activities can be done safely and are a prudent first step towards improving our economy and increasing our energy independence.

According to government sources, there are at least 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas technically recoverable from our federal offshore areas – of that amount it is estimated 3.3 billion barrels of oil and 31 trillion cubic feet of natural gas is off the Atlantic Coast. Given today's volatile energy prices, economic stagnation and high unemployment rate, our supporters believe access to these domestic energy supplies is essential – provided our coastal environment is protected to the maximum extent possible.

Beyond these estimates, the simple fact is that we really don't know how much energy is off the Atlantic seaboard as these estimates are based mostly on data from over 25 years ago. A lot has changed over that period – particularly technology. As you are aware, original surveys of Alaska's Prudhoe Bay put recoverable oil estimates at 9 billion barrels. New survey and production techniques have helped support the recovery of 16 billion barrels of oil to date. Oil estimates in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico have increased by 400% while natural gas resource estimates have more than doubled due to new technology.

We need as much information as possible about Atlantic OCS energy reserves so we can make intelligent decisions about our nation's energy future. The seismic surveys proposed are key to those decisions. New seismic survey techniques can give producers a vastly more detailed accounting of OCS resources – and it can be done safely. The knowledge gained is imperative in order to have a comprehensive debate over whether to allow further exploration and drilling that could result in hundreds of thousands of new jobs and dramatic increases in domestically produced energy.

As we all know though, without these new seismic studies there will be no leasing. And without leasing there will be no drilling. And without drilling there will be no development and thus no potential for the additional jobs and revenue that offshore oil and natural gas development can bring.

It's encouraging to see the federal government start to move this process forward and recognize the need for our nation to begin utilizing more domestic energy resources. The studies and activities discussed here today are a necessary first step towards creating a more secure country through a comprehensive and rational energy policy. For these reasons we ask that you move forward with the proposed plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denver Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Denver Merrill
Executive Director



4/27/12

Dear Mr. Gary Doke

The third and fourth graders of Friends School want to share our opinions about the testing that may take place off the NE coast. I agree to Alternative C. There are so many other ways to get energy, like wind. If we tested, it would kill so much marine life, including the Atlantic Right Whale. Many thanks for reading.

Sincerely,
Emiko Andrews
3rd and 4th grade classroom

SAVE
OCEAN
LIFE!

Save the Animals!

Dear Gary,

My name is Emma and I'm a fourth grader at Friends School of
Wilmington. The age doesn't matter you can be young or you can
be old but anyone can help. If we mix alternative
bands, we can make a difference! C for
stop if you can, or b if necessary. Try not
to kill animals, and PLEASE
stop using air guns!

Love,
Emma



Visit Our Website: <http://ww2.surfrider.org/capefear>

Like Us On Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Cape.Fear.Surfrider.Foundation>

April 27, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region,
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

RE: Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to provide official written comment regarding the draft PEIS for Atlantic Geological & Geophysical (G&G) Activities from the Cape Fear Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. The Cape Fear Surfrider Foundation locally has over 1200 engaged volunteers and is part of an international activist network with over 250,000 members worldwide and 82 chapters throughout the US. Our mission is the protection and enjoyment of oceans waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. The Cape Fear Surfrider Foundation is in support of Alternative C- No action for oil and gas production, status quo for renewable energy and marine mineral G&G activity.

The threats to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish populations, archeological resources, reduction of recreational fishing areas, and endangerment to our beaches out way any short term benefits gained by the G&G activities. The North Carolina coast supports a \$2.6 billion tourism and travel industry with 40,000 jobs, and a \$116 million commercial and recreational fisheries industry with 27,000 jobs. In North Carolina we rely on clean and healthy off shore and near shore environments. It is our business and our way of life.

The Cape Fear Surfrider Foundation urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to adopt "Alternative C". It's the best policy for our environment and our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Crouch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ethan Crouch
Cape Fear Surfrider Foundation

Hazlet, New Jersey
May 24, 2012

Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities
Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

I am appalled at the idea that testing in the ocean, using extremely loud blasts of sound, is even being considered. We all know that marine mammals, as well as several other species of animals, use various frequencies and levels of sound to communicate among themselves, to find prey, perhaps to stun other animals with blasts they themselves generate, detect and avoid potentially dangerous other animals or geological structures, etc.

It seems clear that such testing as proposed will probably damage many of these animals, and could lead to massive kills. In the written proposals for the tests, much is said about the intention not to injure, or kill, marine life, **but I did not see any scientific evidence that the testing has been proven safe.** Instead, proposals to have people on watch, physically looking for animals that might be in the area, are clearly half-way, grossly inadequate methods. Most of these tests will be done in deep water, and the operators of the testing apparatus will have no idea what kinds of life are in the immediate vicinity of the tests or within a distance where they might possibly be harmed.

This is, at best, a crude, potentially devastating proposal.

I attended the hearing held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on April 27, 2012, and, except for a few industry spokespersons, all the commenters were strongly opposed to the proposed testing plan. Several people noted stories about marine mammals being found with blood coming from their ears in areas where sonic activity had taken place. Searching the Internet for these incidents yields instances where this has occurred, and it seems most likely this will happen in our Atlantic Ocean if the proposed testing goes ahead here. Others noted the potential impact on tourism if dead, and dying, animals wash up on the shore.

I have an additional concern, based on my experience with the low dissolved incident that occurred in the New York Bight in 1976. When a thick layer of ceratium tripos plankton died, and settled to the bottom during the early summer, bacteria began decomposing the material and the level of oxygen dropped to near zero over an area of perhaps 4000 square miles. All marine life that did not have a swim bladder (e.g., lobsters, ocean pout, crabs, surf clams) died and decomposed on the bottom. It was a truly massive marine disaster¹. However, because the water

¹ NOAA Professional Paper 11.

Oxygen Depletion and Associated Benthic Mortalities in New York Bight, 1976.
Rockville, Md

becomes layered in the summer, with perhaps two or more thermoclines, animals that use the upper layers, such as bluefish and tuna, were able to survive, and fisherman were able to successfully catch them. So, only a few people, particularly SCUBA divers, realized the full extent of the kill. The same thing that happened then could also occur with the proposed oil exploration testing plan. **Many animals will probably be severely injured and die, or be permanently impaired, and nobody will know about it, because the water is too deep. Devastation could occur and the public will be totally unaware.**

I urge you to abandon this testing plan. There is little enough potential oil to be found to risk such a profound impact on our dwindling marine sources.

Thank you for considering my comments


Eugene W. Geer

558 Beers Street

Hazlet, NJ 07730-1036

Email: pausegene@yahoo.com

Phone: 732-264-3129

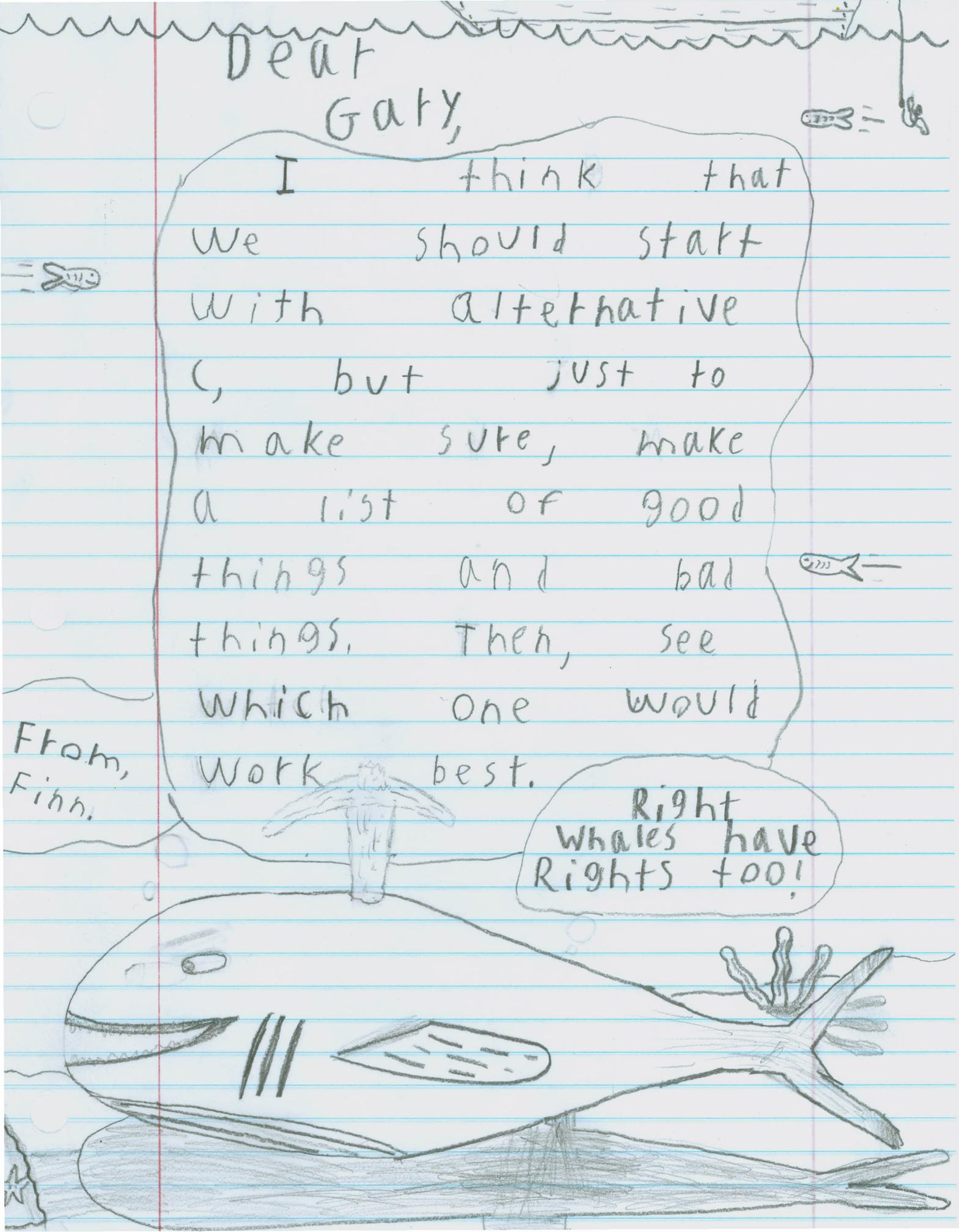
Dear

Gary,

I think that we should start with alternative C, but just to make sure, make a list of good things and bad things. Then, see which one would work best.

Right
Whales have
Rights too!

From,
Finn.



Dear Mrs. Geoke,

4/27/12 11:22 AM.
11:1

I think that we should only focus on alternative C, and make it work.

I think that C should be the only answer and I have many reasons why.

One, we don't really NEED to do it. It also just kills sea creatures. We don't want all the sea creatures in the ocean to get in same spot as the Right Whale. I hope you get many more letters to

want C as the alternative.

Fondly Christian 4th grade
Spotted Sandpiper
classroom.

109 Felspar Way
Cary, North Carolina 27518-2236
May 14, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Subject: Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities

Dear Mr. Goeke:

I strenuously oppose the proposed seismic oil and gas exploration program for the Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic outer continental shelf (OCS) planning areas. The seismic activity is known to be injurious to marine wildlife and it is also the first step toward offshore drilling and potential spilling off our coasts. As a long term resident of North Carolina this proposal causes me great concern and consternation. North Carolina is especially at risk of dangers from offshore oil drilling accidents on the east coast since ocean currents from the north and the south meet immediately offshore of Cape Hatteras, meaning that spills anywhere on the east coast could gravely harm us.

The PEIS acknowledges that seismic testing is particularly harmful to ocean dwelling mammals. Some of these mammals are endangered species. The safeguards described in the PEIS are not enough to assure the safety of these animals and there is no indication of how compliance with the proposed exclusion zones would be assured.

Seismic exploration is the first of many dangerous and polluting steps in offshore oil and gas development. For all the threats that offshore drilling imposes on our oceans and coastal economies, there is very little reward. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, fully developing all of our recoverable offshore oil reserves everywhere would only lower pump prices by 3 cents – and would take twenty years to do so.

I urgently plead that you to choose Alternative “C” (the “no-action” alternative) which will instead focus on developing renewable energy.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey C. Santoliquido

Dear Gary,

I think we should use Alternative b: would be the best because we would be able to protect the whales the right way. The way we will do if we didn't have marine protection. It would be bad. I think we should have a lot of protection to protect the whales.

From,
Griffin.



Mr. James Hughes, Jr.
1317 Leguene Ave.
Forked River, NJ 08731-4115

APRIL 29 2012

MR Goeke,

I ATTENDED THE BOEM MEETING ON APRIL 27-2012 AT THE ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER AND I WAS ALARMED TO SEE THE PROPOSED SOUND ASSAULT OFF THE NEW JERSEY COAST. HERE IN NJ WE ARE PROUD OF OUR WAY OF LIFE AND OUR OCEAN. I WATCHED SCIENTIST AFTER SCIENTIST AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FISHING INDUSTRIES IMPORE THE BOEM NOT TO LET THIS TESTING BEGIN. I THEN WATCHED PAID LOBBYISTS FROM THE OIL COMPANIES TALK ABOUT MONEY AND THE "ARRANGEMENT" THEY HAVE WITH THE BOEM.

MR Goeke please tell me that greed DOES NOT OUTRANK REASON AND put AN END TO THIS DESTRUCTION. IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE DRAFT MAILED TO ME. THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ALREADY HAVE LITTLE FAITH IN GOVT. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW THEM THAT IN STOPPING THIS GOVT. CAN GET IT RIGHT FOR A CHANGE

Thank You
James A. Hughes

Jim Steitz
564 Esslinger Drive
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

May 21, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke,

I urge the Bureau to **withdraw its proposal to allow acoustic exploration for oil and gas across the middle and south Atlantic Ocean**, as described in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Atlantic Geological and Geophysical Activities. This acoustic assault on the marine environment would have devastating impacts on marine mammals and other inhabitants of the Atlantic coastal ecosystems, as well as inflict horrendous and heinous suffering on individual animals.

Scientific studies have shown that the airgun devices used by industry produce the loudest aquatic sound waves besides outright explosives, and can cripple the hearing and echolocation organs of marine mammals, even across distant swaths of the ocean. The Bureau itself estimates, very conservatively, that this invasive, violent form of "exploration" would injure on the order of 140,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises and disrupt the behavior of 13 million more. **These are demographically overwhelming losses that the already imperiled populations of marine mammals cannot sustain**, in light of all the other threats to the Atlantic Ocean.

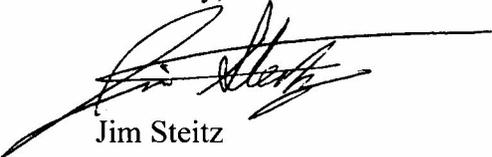
This proposal clearly does not seek an appropriate or rational balance between energy production and the existence rights of marine mammals, and its serious entertainment by the Bureau is an affront to the moral decency that we owe our fellow mammals of the Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, this proposal is quite likely to result in the death or other 'taking' of threatened and endangered species, in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and violates at least the spirit of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It is deeply ironic and disturbing that the **Bureau would allow industry to serially explode the eardrums of whales and porpoises, while a much lesser form of harassment would immediately land an individual in the detention of the Coast Guard.**

Moreover, our atmosphere cannot safely absorb any more carbon dioxide, and this liability to human welfare and survival must be incorporated into Bureau's assessment of the net economic value of the oil to be extracted. **The carbon content of the oil that may result from the exploration proposal is a material threat to America's national security.** President Obama has made clear the executive branch's desire to curb global warming, and for the Bureau to commit to production of a new long-term supply of fossil fuels from the Atlantic Ocean would frustrate this important national goal. The decision to extract oil and gas does not occur in a policy vacuum, triggered by industry interest, but in the context of an urgent national need to shift from carbon-based fuels. Unmolested marine ecosystems are becoming scarcer over time, while excess carbon dioxide is becoming a lethal liability. Therefore, the balance of values should be shifting in favor of preservation of the former and discouraging the latter.

The Bureau must also heed the cruelty, inhumanity, and barbarism inherent in subjecting marine mammals to these airgun devices. As best science can tell, whales, dolphins, and porpoises are extremely intelligent, sentient beings with a range of sensory acuities equaling those of humans. It is extremely likely that the experience of an airgun detonation in the vicinity of a whale whose echolocation tissues are attuned to very slight waves is horrendously painful and traumatic, as well as crippling to that animal's survival. This makes the exploration deeply immoral with respect to individual animals, as well as biologically destructive to the species and marine ecosystem. **It is not within the set of morally rational or sane policies to unleash this acoustic assault on the inhabitants of the Atlantic Ocean** to acquire a substance that our civilization must relinquish for its own survival as well.

Again, please withdraw this proposal by selecting the "No Action" Alternative C on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic Geological and Geophysical Activities. Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Steitz", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Jim Steitz



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

I am in favor of Alternative C
for the following reasons.

1. I do not want to cause physical damage to whales or other marine mammals from the noise the testing would cause.
2. I do not want to disrupt the migration of sea turtles.
3. I do not want a possible oil spill to damage our coastline and hurt our fishing and tourism industries.
4. We are destroying our oceans and environment. We must change our use of fossil fuels to renewable energy!!

Name:

JoAnne Well

Title:

Surgical Technologist

Organization:

Address:

116 Vanstone Dr

City, State, & Zip Code:

Raleigh, NC 27603

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



Stop - Please
No drilling or exploring

PUBLISHED YEARS APART in the magazine, each of these photos of oil-spill victims sparked outrage from NWF members. Tom Myers' photo of an oiled grebe (left) was taken shortly after the 1969 Santa Barbara spill in California. Twenty years later, Randy Brandon made this image of a gloved worker holding a pigeon guillemot during the 1989 disaster in Alaska's Prince William Sound. And 21 years after that, Charlie Riedel photographed a brown pelican at the peak of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill.

in our Oceans!!!



Joyce
GRANT,
Founder
Citizens for
Oceanfront
Preservation
17 J
701 Ocean
Avenue.
Asbury Park
NJ
07712

CHARLIE RIEDEL (ASSOCIATED PRESS), ABOVE LEFT; TOM MYERS; ABOVE RIGHT; RANDY BRANDON

IN ITS EARLY YEARS, the magazine relied on a handful of photographers to supply most of its wildlife images. One of them, Ron Austing, captured this great horned owl on film for a June/July 1963 article "The Birds of Prey." Though photos of birds in flight are common today, Austing's stop-action picture was considered exceptional 50 years ago.

A STRIKING EXAMPLE of how contemporary wildlife photographers make use of today's advanced camera equipment, this Michael Forsberg image of sandhill cranes was published in "New Dawn for a Prairie River." The October/November 2007 article reported on efforts to protect water flows in the Platte River in Nebraska, where as many as 500,000 cranes gather to rest during migration.



Dear Mr. Gary 4/26/12

I am in third grade I think you should choose Alternative C. You should not use Air Guns because it can create stress to sea animals like the Whale. It will harm marine life. I think you should stop hearting any Marine life. 1 reason I think you should choose Alternative C is the one to do because there is no need to do the things like Air Guns. You should not harm any animals in a process like this. If you want to see the oil in the ocean I say you should find a new way so you don't harm animals like the indentured Right Whale. That is why I think you should choose Alternative C.

Fondly,

Justin Pfeifer from the Spotted sand Piper class

Justin



Friday, April 27, 2012



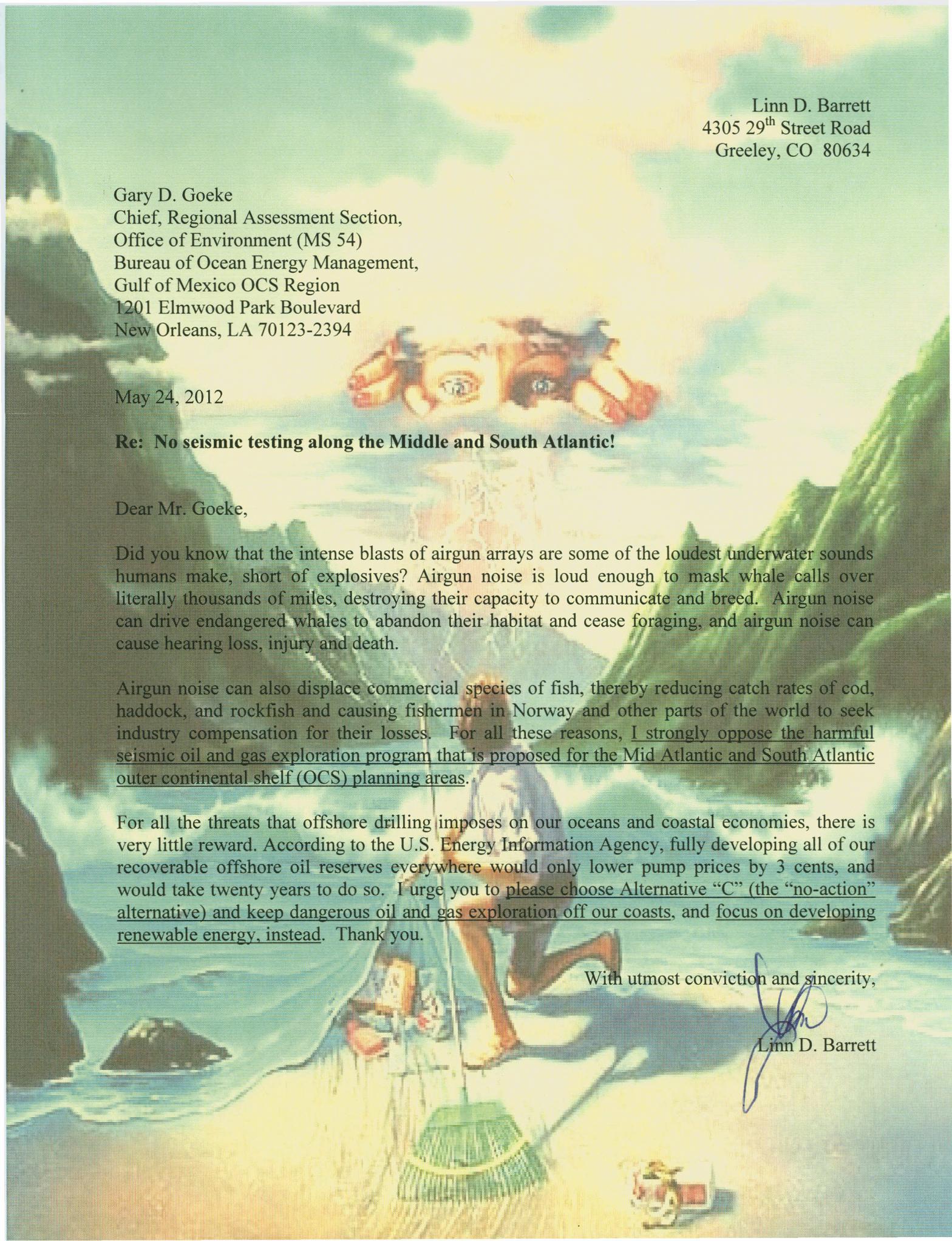
Dear Mr. Gary D. Peake,

I chose alternative C

because the protection of species
like Right Whales is more
important than testing for
oil and natural gas; we
can find other ways to
power cars. That is my
opinion.

Sincerely,

Lillian
4th grader



Linn D. Barrett
4305 29th Street Road
Greeley, CO 80634

Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section,
Office of Environment (MS 54)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

May 24, 2012

Re: No seismic testing along the Middle and South Atlantic!

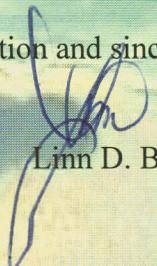
Dear Mr. Goeke,

Did you know that the intense blasts of airgun arrays are some of the loudest underwater sounds humans make, short of explosives? Airgun noise is loud enough to mask whale calls over literally thousands of miles, destroying their capacity to communicate and breed. Airgun noise can drive endangered whales to abandon their habitat and cease foraging, and airgun noise can cause hearing loss, injury and death.

Airgun noise can also displace commercial species of fish, thereby reducing catch rates of cod, haddock, and rockfish and causing fishermen in Norway and other parts of the world to seek industry compensation for their losses. I strongly oppose the harmful seismic oil and gas exploration program that is proposed for the Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic outer continental shelf (OCS) planning areas.

For all the threats that offshore drilling imposes on our oceans and coastal economies, there is very little reward. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, fully developing all of our recoverable offshore oil reserves everywhere would only lower pump prices by 3 cents, and would take twenty years to do so. I urge you to please choose Alternative "C" (the "no-action" alternative) and keep dangerous oil and gas exploration off our coasts, and focus on developing renewable energy, instead. Thank you.

With utmost conviction and sincerity,


Linn D. Barrett

4/27/12

Dear Gary,

I think the environment is very

important for everyone, even if they are the ones destroying

it. For the good of not only the environment and animals,

but for people too! I am going to go with alternatives.

Peacefully,

Lola June Byers
4th grader

4-27-12

Dear Mr. Gary D. Neoke,

I'm a fourth grader
who goes to the Friends
School of Wilmington.

I would chose
C, I chose C because
with better technology
might even save there
lives.

I live right
near the coast and
I completely agree with

your decision to help
save the Right Whale.

Even if you would like
something from that
specific type of whale,
you should leave it
alone. I think everyone
should chose C for
their answer.

Sincerely,
Maddie

Dear Mr. Gary D. Geoke,

I am a third-grader, and I am responding to tell my reasons to chose an alternative C. I am in favor of choosing alternative C, and I am sure most of the public is too. I think an endangered life is more important than finding out how much oil we have. My family always says: If not us, who? If not now, when? This applies to helping the ocean!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Maia Siegel in blue ink. The name 'Maia' is written in a cursive style with a small star above the 'i'.

Maia Siegel

Handwritten signature of Siegel in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

May 21, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

RE: Comments on the Draft Atlantic G&G Programmatic EIS

Dear Mr. Goeke,

Not just as someone who lives on the coast of our beautiful Atlantic Ocean, but also as a concerned citizen who feels that our Country must move forward in clean energy, I am opposed to seismic testing and drilling for oil and gas. Now is the time to consider using offshore wind as an alternative.

Seismic testing is the first step to offshore drilling. Not only is it dangerous to marine mammals, but it also compromises the delicate balance in our ecosystem. It is definitely a step in the wrong direction for our future. Our dependence on fossil fuel is dangerous and "dirty" energy impacts on increasing climate change and ocean acidification.

In closing, drilling offshore is an environmental discrimination and a crime against nature. Please consider the consequences! Is it really worth it? We only have one ocean ... one world.....!

Sincerely,



Marion Kreh
127 McDougald Dr.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

May 28, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

RE: Comments on the Draft Atlantic G&G Programmatic EIS

Dear Sir:

Please consider the quality of life for all land and sea creatures that would be affected by any potentially detrimental venture, which begins with the proposed diagnostic undertaking that is also harmful.

Perhaps you have the authority to stop this now.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael C. Reed
127 McDougald Dr.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

4/27/12

Dear Mr. Gary D. Geoke,

I think Alternative C because
we don't need to do it.
It can hurt the sea animals.
Like the wright wales.

From,

Olivia
4th grade student
at Friends school of
Wilmington



Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the state's unified voice of business, supports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's permitting of geological and geophysical activities for oil and gas exploration and development in the Mid and South Atlantic Planning Areas. This process is a vital first step in ensuring a lower cost, domestic energy supply for American businesses.

Obtaining updated seismic information is the foundation for the Bureau to begin the leasing and drilling processes for offshore oil and gas resources in the Atlantic. The current Administration's delay of lease sales by at least seven years has been detrimental to the process of opening this area to offshore drilling and has hurt the American economy. However, the Administration's recent announcement to begin the process of obtaining updated seismic data begins the process of reversing the detrimental effects of the delay of lease sales to businesses and consumers in this country.

A domestic energy supply will strengthen U.S. energy security, which will help reduce energy risks to America's businesses. With gas prices close to \$4.00 a gallon, businesses are suffering, and the U.S. government should assess every opportunity to safely produce domestic energy. Increasing costs of doing business is affecting the country's economic growth, but offshore drilling will help keep ever-increasing gas prices under control.

Opening the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to offshore drilling could provide hundreds of thousands of new jobs and generate significant revenue for both state and federal governments.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts by the Bureau of Ocean Management in beginning the process of opening the Atlantic OCS to drilling for oil and gas resources, increasing America's energy security and reducing the price of oil and gas for America's businesses. Thank you for consideration of our comments on this important issue for a robust American economy.

1301 Gervais Street
Suite 1100
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 799-4601

Fax
(803) 779-6043

www.scchamber.net

Sincerely,

Otis Rawl
President and CEO

April 27, 2012

Dear Mr. Gary D. Geoke

I think you should
Choose C because its better
for whales and better for
the marine life. Also, you
you can make gas out
of more things, such as wind
spirals or vegetable oil. It will hurt
the ocean and that would effect

swimming. From,
Ren Powell

MR. ROBERT F. BOBON
NEW HANOVER HOUSE
ASSISTED LIVING
3915 STEDWICK COURT
ROOM 183-A
WILMINGTON NC 28412
(910) 632-2671

REGIONAL OMBUDSMAN
MS. AUDREY MARSHALL
1480 HARBOUR DRIVE
WILMINGTON NC
(910) 395-4553 X. 221
(CONTACT PERSON)

OVERSEAS: DATA RECORDS

• SUPERVISOR

ROI NAMUR ATOLL

KIERNAN RE-ENTRY

MEASUREMENTS SITE

KWAJALEIN ATOLL

KWAJALEIN MISSILE

RANGE, MARSHALL ISLANDS

SOUTH PACIFIC

MICRONESIA

SENIOR DESIGN DRAFTSMAN CIVIL (MUNICIPAL)

• REGISTER DEEDS

• PROCESS PERMITS

• EASEMENTS

• RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENTS

• RESEARCH COURT HOUSE TAX MAPS

• GEODETIC TECHNICIAN

• NONPROFIT PROGRAM

120'

20'

134

E 21 ST

CITY OF CHESTER (PA)

(2.0) YEARS EXPERIENCE

UPLAND



LEADER. SUPERVISED A WORK CREW OF (21) LABORERS. COORDINATED LEVEE FLOOD CONTROL CONSTRUCTION WITH ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEER

ST

ST

\$ 40,500-

PAY:

\$ 57,900

M.I.T. (MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
LINCOLN LABORATORY
(1.5) YEARS EXPERIENCE
DOCUMENTATION/
TECHNOLOGY/TECHNICAL
PUBLICATIONS

ARCHIVIST/
ARCHIVES TECHNICIAN

DATA
RECORDS
SUPERVISOR

SUPERVISED

A
DOCUMENT CONTROL CLERK
AND A
DATA LIBRARIAN.

ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE
CONTROL, DISTRIBUTION,
AND INVENTORY OF OVER
10,000 CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS.

NEW
WATER
SERVICE

PE
POI



155'

CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 467
CHESTER PA 19016

12-INCH DUCTILE IRON WATER
(MAIN PIPE)

JR.
DESIGN
CIVIL

(MUNICIPAL)
DRAFTSMAN

(2.5)
YEARS
EXPERIENCE

To: Mr. Gary D. Geake

I think that C would be a good choice. I am only a third grader, but I think that it would be a good idea to protect every single animal, Endangered or not. I love animals and I really want to protect them. C would also be a good idea because it might not pollute so much in the long run. That is why I think that C would be a good choice.

Sincerely,

A student from Friends School of Wilmington



Dear Gary Goeke,

I am a third grader. Even though

I am a little young I still want to

decide between alternative A, alternative B, and

alternative C. My opinion is alternative C. I

don't want the poor whales being killed. In my

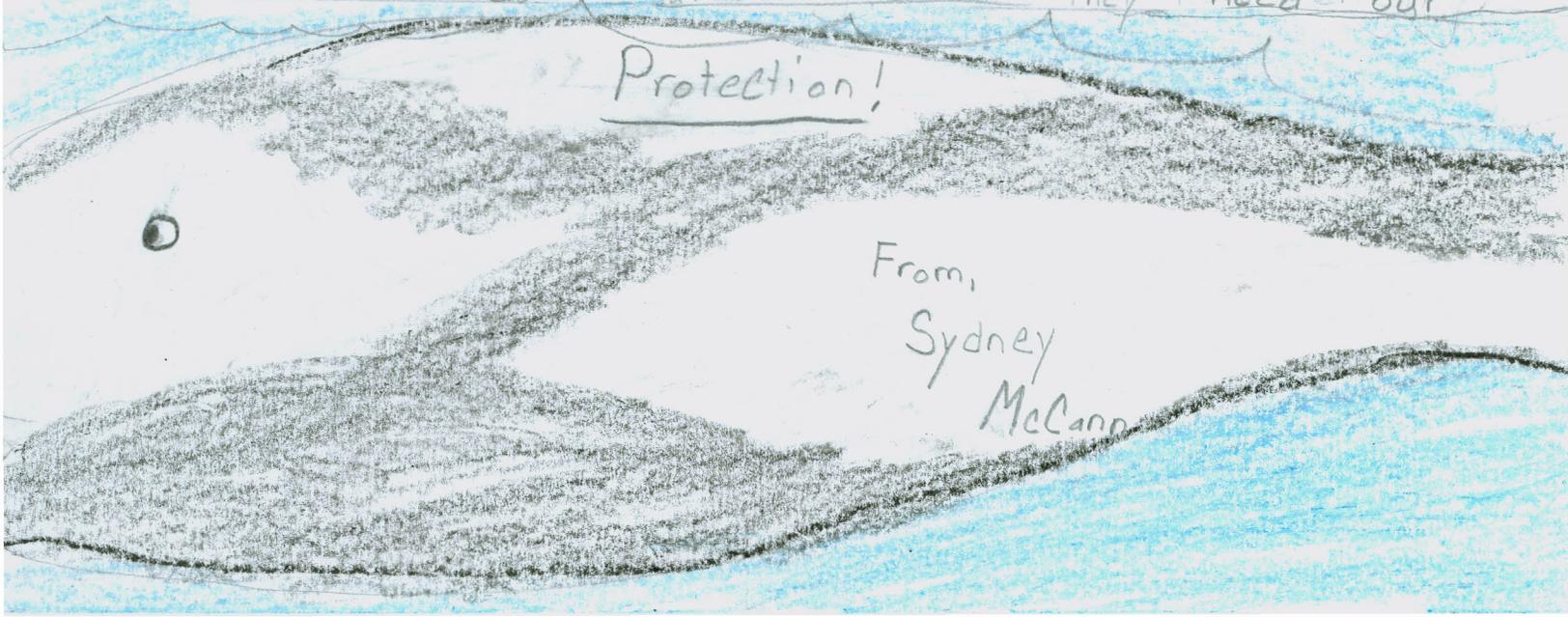
opinion the air gun technicians would probably

rather lose their jobs than die, but the Right

Whales don't have a choice they need our

Protection!

From,
Sydney
McCann



Dear Gary.D. Goeke,

I think alternative A
should be changed a little.

The acoustic waves are
breaking the ear bones
of the Right whale. I hope
you agree with me.

From, Tucker

Fri. April, 27th 2012

Dear Mr. Gary D. Geoke,

I think that

Alternative C is good because

I really want to

save the whales.

My name is

Tyler and I am

in fourth grade.

From,

Tyler

“Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities”

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Regional Assessment Section

Office of Environment (MS5410)

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Gulf of Mexico OCR Region

1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard

New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke:

I am writing to voice my clear and unambiguous objection to off-shore oil drilling.

In the draft PEIS, Secretary Salazar states, “As we move forward with the safe exploration and production of our domestic energy supply, this environmental analysis will help provide the critical information we need to make smart decisions in the Mid- and South Atlantic.”

In light of the catastrophic BP oil spill that has harmed our planet immeasurably, how can anyone assure the public that off-shore oil drilling could be considered "safe exploration"? It is mind boggling to me, that after the BP oil spill, legislators and bureaucrats are calling for "environmental analysis" as to whether this is safe or not. Catastrophic oil spills will continue to happen as they always have. How many more oil spills will it take before we abandon our addiction to this toxic and life threatening energy?

We don't need another study. A child can see how detrimental off-shore drilling is. What we need is massive investment and infrastructure of non-carbon emission energy sources, such as wind, solar and hemp - all of which will produce American jobs and create political stability by making us less dependent on nations that use oil profits to fund terrorist and other anti-American organizations.

Wake up, grow a pair, and prevent special interests from ruining our planet and our nation more than they already have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Reiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Wayne Reiss
Brooklyn, NY

Good evening, My name is Dr. Aaron Richardet. I am an executive board member of the Cape Fear chapter of Surfrider. I am here representing myself, my family and the over 1200 engaged local Surfrider members. Cape Fear Surfrider is part of an activist organization of over 250,000 members.

Seismic testing for natural oil and gas comes at a great price to the local marine life that live in our coastal waters. The auditory assault from seismic surveys has been found to damage or kill fish eggs and larvae and to impair the hearing and health of fish and marine mammals, making them vulnerable to predators and leaving them unable to locate prey or mates or communicate with each other. These disturbances can disrupt and displace important migratory patterns, pushing marine life away from suitable habitats like nurseries and foraging, mating, spawning, and migratory corridors. In addition, seismic surveys have been implicated in whale beaching and stranding incidents.

The threats to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish populations, archeological resources, reduction of recreational fishing areas, and endangerment to our beaches outweigh any short term benefits gained by the G&G activities. The North Carolina coast supports a \$2.6 billion tourism and travel industry with 40,000 jobs, and a \$116 million commercial and recreational fisheries industry with 27,000 jobs. In North Carolina we rely on clean and healthy off shore and near shore environments. It is our business and our way of life.

As a surfer there is a magical moment that happens on the oceans surf zones when you look over in the surf line up and you find yourself catching waves with dolphins, the worlds greatest surfers. They are out there just like us for pure enjoyment of the oceans waves. Once you have this moment happen and you feel

this connection you are changed forever, and you know you must protect your fellow surfers.

Our ocean is one of the greatest treasures that our children hold us responsible for protecting for future generations, and we along with millions of other Americans are willing to do what it takes to protect this gift. The Cape Fear Sufrider Foundation urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to adopt "Alternative C"—No action for oil and gas production, status quo for renewable energy and marine mineral G&G activity. It's the best policy for our environment and our economy.

by politicians *It will leave everyone with a warning to be wary of greenwashing*
Natural gas is as natural as the coal and oil

#20



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Good day, my name is Barbara Suruga and I vote in Virginia Beach. Two years ago this summer, after the BP blowout, I was walking on our beach at 89th St. Along with sea shells I found a bottle cap, an oil encrusted bottle cap. It must have made its way from the BP Horizon Oil Well disaster. Its impact was felt even here. BP is still not capable of cleaning up its mess. If you google oil spills you will see that they are world wide & continual; continual meaning there are ~~the~~ lines that continue to leak copious amounts of oil into the environment. I vote No to drilling. I vote No to oil, gas, coal & all dirty, dangerous, non renewable energy, as well as fracking. I vote Yes to wind, solar, tidal & all clean, safe, renewable energy sources. Thank you for your time.

Name: Barbara Suruga
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: 2400 Rally Ct.
City, State, & Zip Code: Va Bch, Va 23454

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

We need to have this Geological & Geophysical data Activity to commence AS SOON as possible to ensure that from over 35 yrs ago, of suspected oil or Natural gas Deposits are still in the areas that are planned - North, Mid, & South Atlantic areas, to update old data using state-of-art technology to find the Natural gas Deposits & further energy exploratory means possible for development of this country's, The United States of America, use of oil & Natural gas resources that will develop thousands of jobs, create better opportunities for millions of people seeking this type of vast & productive careers; create wider studies in science areas that can have effective scholarship programs for college bound students wanting to be endeavored into this field of study, and to have this country's own Natural gas for the future generations of the United States of America to NOT be dependent on ANY MORE FOREIGN OIL to insure the SECURITY of this NATION and retain what our FOUNDING FATHERS of this Nation wanted for ALL AMERICANS.

Name: CARLENE CARMEN, SFC (Ret.)
Title: Legislative Committee Chairperson
Organization: Carolina Patriots
Address: 3395 POTTZ TRAIL
City, State, & Zip Code: CONWAY, SC 29526

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Carol Green

WHAT
IS THE PRICE \$
FOR A LIFE?

WHAT
IS A LIFE
WORTH?

DOLPHINS DECEASED SINCE BP HORIZON SPILL

35,700 --LIVES LOST



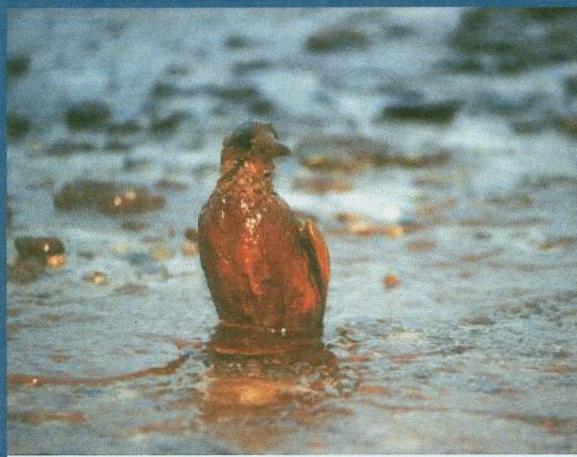
35,700

American, British, and Canadian PHd'S

"For Each Body Found On Coast, 50 fall to Sea Bottom"

Interpreting cetacean carcass recoveries in the context of the *Deepwater Horizon*/BP incident
Rob Williams¹ (lead researcher), Shane Gero², Lars Bejder³, John Calambokidis⁴, Scott D. Kraus⁵, David Lusseau⁶, Andrew J. Read⁷, Jooke Robbins⁸
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00168.x/abstract>





For Dolphins who survive, thousands are SEVERELY ill and SUFFER with:



- a) Lung cancer**
- b) Liver cancer**
- c) Anemia**



and a multitude of other illnesses which scientists attribute to exposure to oil.

¹Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZgXcUeXsY8&context=C415f7abADv/VQa1PpcfMpeM-BN67KnLw9rbFX0FB0K5PN53ZOmXN53D>

²Source: http://blogs.aj.com/live/3/12/03/louisiana_dolphins_are_very_s.html

COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

- **Exposure to oil has been shown to severely compromise immune systems in both humans and dolphins.**
- **Elements in oil: hydrocarbons and PCBs, both carcinogens, are highly toxic and cancerous.**
- **Dolphins the world over suffer and die from compromised immune systems due to accumulation of POPs.**
- **These chemicals bioaccumulate up the ocean food web and are especially concentrated in apex predators such as dolphins.**
- **Some of the best-known POPs are PCBs, DDT, and dioxins.**
- **Dolphins with compromised immune systems are susceptible to diseases such as leptospirosis, brucellosis and distemper, according to Dr. Peter Ross of Canada's Institute of Ocean Sciences and a world recognized expert on the impact of toxic chemicals (including oil) on marine mammals.**
- **Throughout the world dolphins carry brucellosis and their immune systems easily repel this virus; in the Gulf, brucellosis has killed several dolphins.**

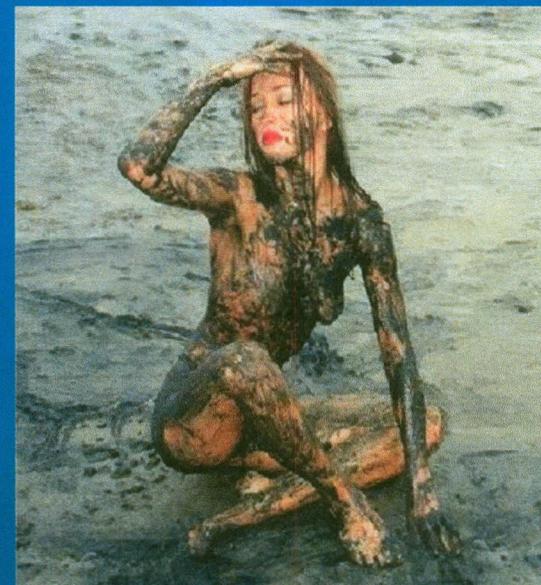
Humans & Dolphins Have Similar Systems

Like marine and wildlife, human life in the Gulf is severely ill.

In fact, everywhere in the world where there are oil drills, the humans, wildlife, and marine life that live anywhere near those oil drills are severely ill with autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus, schleroderma, connective tissue tissue, and many many cancers at a much higher rate than in places where no oil drilling occurs.

THERE IS ___ NOT ONE ___ EXCEPTION TO THIS:

- **Amazon**
- **Nigeria**
- **Kazakhstan**
- **Alberta Tar Sands**



¹Source: <http://www.thenation.com/article/167461/bps-toxic-legacy>

²Source: <http://www.southernstudies.org/2012/04/new-survey-details-bp-oil-spills-human-health-damages.html>

MARINE MAMMALS

- **A Dolphin's neo-cortex is more highly convulated than in the human brain. Convolutions are folds in the brain that increase surface size: the larger the surface size, the more intelligent. See picture below: dolphin brain to the left, human brain to the right.**
- **Dolphins can easily read abstract symbols (see video).**
- **Although scientists are currently analyzing and understanding their complex sonar, we have not yet been able to totally understand their language.**
- **Yet they have the ability to learn our language.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouSuGoZi0HY>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=6eq_eYHuUzc&NR=1

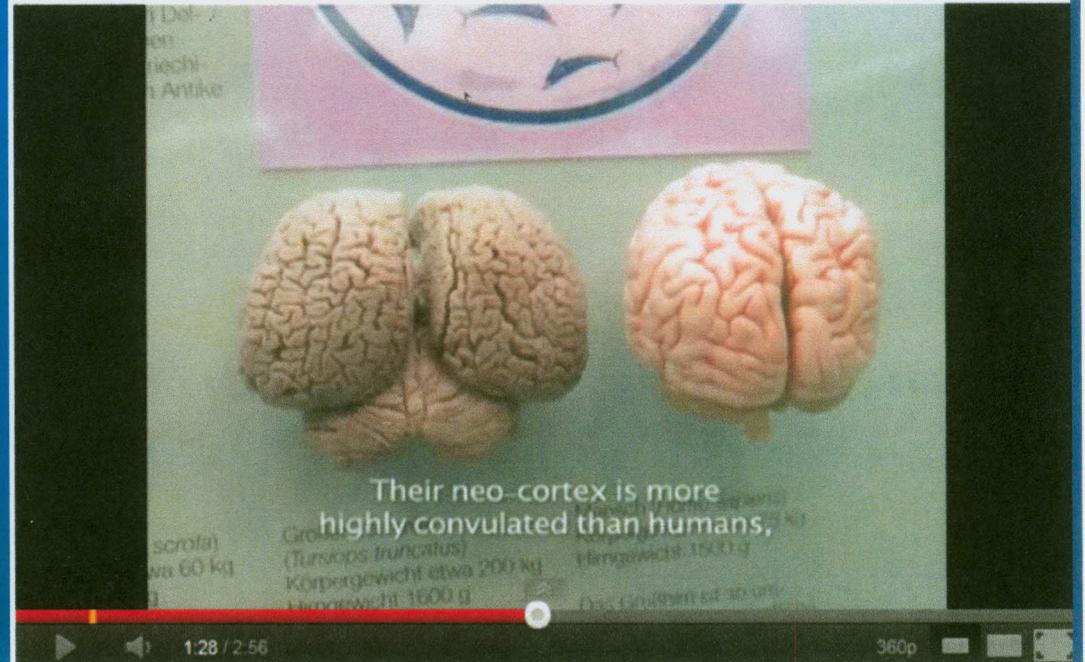
Dolphin Intelligence-Preview of new documentary

echomedia



Subscribe

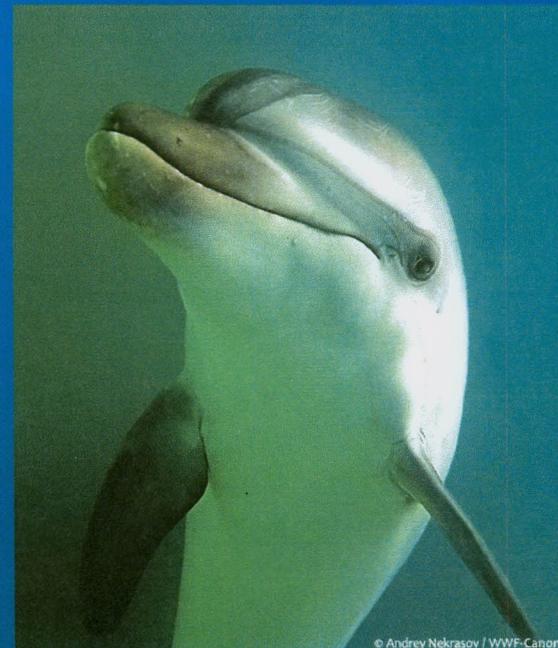
32 videos



MARINE MAMMALS

- **Dolphins are self-aware: when a mirror is placed in front of them, they realize that the reflection is of themselves by 6 months of age.**
- **Human infants do not have this ability until after they are 2 years old.**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrOtj3CAHgU&feature=results_main&playnext=1&list=PL39FD3238CB12B353



MARINE MAMMALS

- **Today scientists have proven that cetacean brain size is equal to that of man's, and that in some ways whales and dolphins maybe even more intelligent. "Bottlenose dolphins have convincingly demonstrated that they use a mirror to investigate their own bodies, showing that they have a sense of self (Reiss and Marino, 2001). These findings are consistent with further evidence for self-awareness and self-monitoring in dolphins and related cognitive abilities (see Marino et al, 2008, for a review).**
- **In particular, the highly elaborated cingulate and insular cortex in cetacean brains are consistent with the idea that these animals are highly sophisticated and sensitive in the emotional and social-emotional sophistication not achieved by other animals including humans.**
- **All of the above factors provide cause for concern over the vulnerability of whales and dolphins when placed in stressful situations, including capture, drive hunts, and the disruption of social networks.**
- **Moreover, conservation measures that do not take into account the psychological complexity of these animals will do little to alleviate suffering on an individual level.**

Could dolphin intelligence match humans?

ThickShades1



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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f0U3CAHqUk&feature=results_main&playnext=1&list=PL39FD3238C317B353

MARINE MAMMALS

- **Beyond our scientific understanding, our current knowledge of cetacean brains and cognitive abilities demands we develop a new ethic of respect and coexistence with them.**

- Von Economo neurons (VENs) are large projection neurons present in layer V of the anterior insular and anterior cingulate cortices of humans, great apes, and elephants, and in layer V of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex of humans. The VENs containing cortical regions are, in humans, part of a network that integrates the information on physiological states of the body into decision making, and that becomes characteristically affected in neuropsychiatric conditions where emotional regulation and social conduct are impaired. VENs are thus thought to play a pivotal role in social and emotional processes and recent evidence suggests their involvement in autonomic functions, supporting the view that they might be altogether involved in the behavioral and social adaptive response to changing conditions.

Dolphins: Deep Thinkers?: Echolocation test

pacificwhitesided



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26 videos



Source: ¹(Phillip Brakes and Mark Peter Simmonds, Whales and Dolphins Cognition, Culture, Conservation and Human Perceptions, Washington, DC, Earthscan, 2011).

Source: ²http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51G83jaeNC4&feature=autoplay&list=PL39FD3238C612B353&lr=results_mam&playnext=1

Source: ³<http://championsforcetaceans.com/2011/11/05/dolphins-fought-bravely-for-their-lives/>

Von Economo neurons in the brain of cetaceans: a possible neuroanatomical basis for social cognition

Butti, Camilla¹; Hof, Patrick R¹

(1) Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience, New York, New York, 10029, USA

Corresponding author: camilla.butti@mssm.edu

MARINE MAMMALS

- **Beyond our scientific understanding, our current knowledge of cetacean brains and cognitive abilities demands we develop a new ethic of respect and coexistence with them.**
- Using histological techniques we observed VENs in comparable cortical regions of the brain of several cetaceans species, including humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), and beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*). We also observed VENs with a less specific distribution in the closest relative of cetaceans, the pigmy hippopotamus (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis*), and in other marine mammals including the Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the Atlantic walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*).
- **The selective distribution of VENs, comparable to that of great apes and humans, in many cetacean species is intriguing and consistent with the growing evidence of their sophisticated cognitive abilities and social lifestyles such as complex social structures, higher-order alliances, cooperative networks, cultural transmission, and tool use.**
- Our results show that VENs represent a common evolutionary trait among large vertebrates contributing to specialized networks in a taxon-specific manner and that, in the specific case of cetaceans, they might be the anatomical basis for the observed social and cognitive convergences shared by primates and cetaceans.

Source:

¹ http://www.marine mammalscience.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=399&Itemid=65&abstract=785

Source:

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaE15jY0RPs&feature=autoplay&list=PL28TQ220K8128353&f=results_main&playnext=1

Wildlife on BBC -DOLPHINS - DEEP THINKERS? -part 1/3

nikolaos333



Subscribe

348 videos



06:48 / 10:01



360p

SEISMIC BLASTING

- **Gateway Drug to Drilling: Once \$ Billions are paid for 8 years of blasting, there is no turning back.**
- **This seismic study is completely unnecessary when it comes to supporting offshore wind development in mid-Atlantic states. The necessary G&G studies are already covered by the programmatic Environmental Assessment that BOEM has already approved for our mid-Atlantic wind energy areas which includes both Maryland and Virginia.**
- **The airguns repeatedly comb over vast areas of ocean – areas the size of Rhode Island around one single array. The large arrays used by industry can involve more than 30 airguns simultaneously.**
- **To search for oil and gas, the industry uses arrays of airguns, which release intense blasts of compressed air into the water every 10 seconds for days, weeks and months on end. These rapid discharges of compressed air from air gun arrays send acoustic shock waves down through the water column that is reflected back from sub-sea rock strata.**

¹Source: <http://blog.nwf.org/2012/04/east-coast-dolphins-would-get-sonic-migraine-from-proposed-drilling/>

²Source: http://oceana.org/sites/default/files/reports/Toxic_Legacy_FINAL.pdf

³Source: <http://www.treehugger.com/ocean-conservation/3000-dolphins-found-dead-coast-peru.html>

⁴Source: <http://oceana.org/en/blog/2012/04/oil-exploration-noise-may-lead-to-dolphin-strandings>

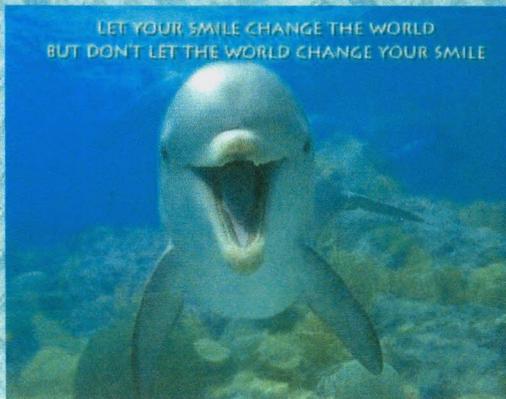
⁵Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/agency-stops-seismic-tests-worries-dolphins-164051870.html>

⁶Source: <http://www.nrdc.org/oceans/files/seismic.pdf>

⁷Source: <http://www.nccoast.org/Blog-Post.aspx?k=2aced86c-26df-4592-a106-c073e2572074>

SEISMIC BLASTING AFFECTS TO MARINE MAMMALS

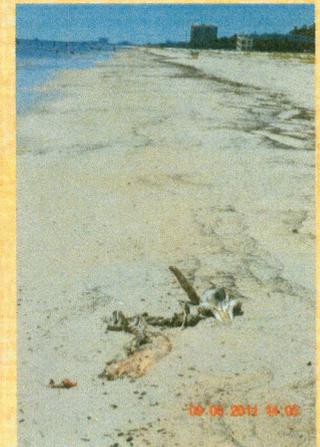
- **Seismic surveys, conducted during offshore oil and gas exploration are up to 260 decibels loud: this causes brain hemorrhaging, injury, extreme pain, hearing loss, and/or death to marine mammals located anywhere near the surveying.**
- **Marine mammals are especially at risk, as their hearing can be permanently damaged or even eliminated. This is equivalent to a stick of dynamite going off every 10 seconds next to a human being for months without ending.**
- **According to the Administration's own estimates, seismic exploration would injure up to 138,500 marine mammals and disrupt marine mammal feeding, calving, breeding, and other vital activities more than 13.5 million times over the course of the proposed eight years of exploration.**
- **The noise from seismic surveys has been known to carry up to 100,000 square miles through ocean environments. Airgun noise is loud enough to mask whale calls over thousands of miles, destroying their capacity to communicate and breed. It can drive whales to abandon their habitat and cease foraging (finding food).**



LET YOUR SMILE CHANGE THE WORLD
BUT DON'T LET THE WORLD CHANGE YOUR SMILE

PERPETUAL OIL SPILLS

- **Elements in oil such as PCB's, BENZENE, and HYDROCARBONS are CARCINOGENIC. They cause CANCER and ILLNESS when life, whether it be human or cetacean, comes in contact with it. Collected 2/27/2012, Sea Foam in the Gulf of Mexico contains PAH's almost two years after the oil spill.**
- **Currently there are literally thousands of abandoned, and other, wells leaking right now in the Gulf of Mexico, and in a report released by Gulf Coast Waterkeepers it was estimated that "over 3,000 oil spills have happened in the past twelve months. That isn't even counting onshore oil spills along the Gulf Coast. The oil industry clearly has an oil spill problem. The problems that led to the BP oil disaster have not been fixed."**
- **And there is still oil coming from the Deepwater Horizon site -- not a couple drops here and there, but A VERY LARGE SWATH that covers over 2.5 MILLION SQUARE YARDS!**



¹Source: <http://www.bridgethегulfproject.org/node/477>

²Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/03/20123313318459762.html>

³Source: <http://leanweb.org/our-work/water/bp-oil-spill/sea-foam-contains-pah-s-two-years-after-oil-spill>

REVENUE & JOBS

Although the Oil Industry will always promise States with new 'Revenue' and 'Jobs' for letting them reap irreversible havoc on our coastlines, wildlife, marine life, and health, this is the current 'Revenue' and 'Jobs' that are lost by giving them the keys to our coastline:

- **FISHING:** Commercial and recreational fishing off the Atlantic from Maryland south generate **\$11.8 billion** annually and support **222,000 jobs**. **Airgun Blasts used for Seismic Exploration** have been shown to **displace commercial species on a vast scale - over thousands of square kilometers**. The result has been to dramatically depress catch rates of species such as cod, haddock, and rockfish. Fishermen in some parts of the world where seismic testing is already occurring are seeking industry compensation for their losses.
- **WHALE-WATCHING:** Green-lighting **seismic** also poses threats to the **\$20 million** whale-watching industry in the mid- to SE Atlantic.
- **COASTAL TOURISM:** If the administration takes the next step by opening the coast to oil and gas drilling, the entire **\$23 billion coastal tourism and recreational industries** are at risk.
- **MARYLAND:** In Maryland, there are about **20,500 fishing jobs**, nearly **\$770 million** in recreational fishing sales and more than **\$76 million** in commercial fishing revenue. Maryland's tourism & recreation industry generates more than **\$2.5 billion** and nearly **60,000 jobs** - offshore drilling of the Atlantic coast could be devastating for it.

FACT

U.S. Drilling Does NOT Lower Gas Prices

- **A statistical analysis of 36 years of monthly, inflation-adjusted gasoline prices and U.S. domestic oil production by The Associated Press shows no statistical correlation between how much oil comes out of U.S. wells and the price at the pump.**
- **When you put the inflation-adjusted price of gas on the same chart as U.S. oil production since 1976, the numbers sometimes go in the same direction, sometimes in opposite directions. If drilling for more oil meant lower prices, the lines on the chart would consistently go in opposite directions. A basic statistical measure of correlation found no link between the two, and outside statistical experts confirmed those calculations.**
- **The AP analysis used Energy Department figures for regular unleaded gas prices adjusted for inflation to 2012 dollars, oil production and oil demand. The figures go back to January 1976, the earliest the Energy Department keeps figures on unleaded gas prices. Phil Hanser, an economist and statistician at the energy consulting firm The Brattle Group; University of South Carolina statistics professor John Grego; New York University statistics professor Edward Melnick and David Peterson, a retired Duke University statistics professor, looked at the analysis, ran their own calculations, including several complicated formulas, and came to the same conclusion.**

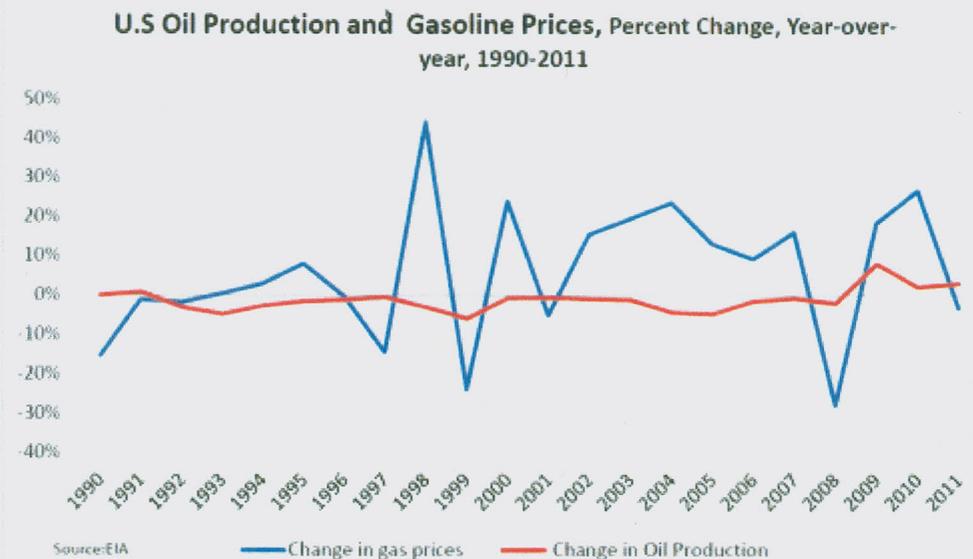
¹Source1: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-03/D9TL1BO00.htm>

²Source2: <https://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/03/21-11>

FACT

U.S. Drilling Does NOT Lower Gas Prices

- **'Drill, baby, drill has nothing to do with it,' said Judith Dwarkin, chief energy economist at ITG investment research. Two other energy economists said the same thing and experts in the field have been making that observation for decades.**
- **That's because oil is a global commodity and U.S. production has only a tiny influence on supply. Additionally any increase from our wells could be answered by a decrease from OPEC's so as to control the cost.**
- **The U.S.'s largest EXPORT last year was gasoline. So drilling more here does not keep it in our country.**
- **In a recent speech, Senator Jeff Bingamin also pointed out the lack of a relationship between U.S. oil production and gas prices using the chart to the right:**
- **Senator Jeff Bingamin: "Here, the red line is the change in domestic production, year over year. The blue line is gasoline prices. And what's striking about this chart is the lack of relationship between the two lines. Even with U.S. production *increasing* as it was at some points, oil prices were also increasing, and gas prices were also increasing."**



SADLY, MOST FOLKS DO NOT REALIZE THAT
DRILLING FOR OIL IN AMERICA WILL NOT
LOWER GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP



WHAT
IS THE PRICE \$
FOR A LIFE?

WHAT
IS A LIFE
WORTH?



IN MY OPINION,
THE QUESTION IS
NOT DO WE WANT
SEISMIC TESTS OR
OIL DRILLING?

RATHER THE
QUESTION IS
ARE WE WILLING
TO MURDER
TO OBTAIN THAT
OIL?





U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Gas + oil are finite commodities. Eventually, you (we) will have to face this again, + we will need to find a renewable source of energy anyway. Why not now? The whole reason this is proposed is just an effort to preserve corporate profits.

Name:

Carole Devine

Title:

Organization:

Address:

6 Rodgers Pl.

City, State, & Zip Code:

Portsmouth, VA 23462

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

We need the energy, the money, the jobs,
develop the energy resources now.

Name:

Darrell E. New

Title:

NASA Scientist - Retired

Organization:

Address:

1502 Karhlep Way

City, State, & Zip Code:

Fleming Island, FL 32003

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jan 1 pm



South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 754 • Columbia, SC • 29202.0754
803.796.6700 • Fax 803.936.4496
www.scfb.org

April 19, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Regional Assessment Section
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

Dear Mr. Goeke:

The South Carolina Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, supports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's permitting geological and geophysical activities for oil and gas exploration and development in the Mid and South Atlantic Planning Areas. Increasing access to and promoting production of domestic energy sources not only strengthens America's energy security, but promotes economic development as well.

We applaud a recent announcement by the current Administration to begin the process of obtaining updated seismic data. With the continued increase in gas prices, farmers are suffering, and the U.S. government should assess every opportunity to produce domestic energy safely. Natural gas is a critical recourse to nearly every farm in America, from fertilizer, to crop protection chemicals, many farms rely heavily on products based on natural gas. Updated data is very important for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), given that current estimates are based on old data and have not benefited from the technological advances in seismic surveying and computer modeling in use by the industry today.

Our economy depends on the millions of jobs off-shore production generates. Millions of jobs rely on oil and natural gas as a vital and necessary part of their core function – from aviation to trucking to chemical manufacturing to iron and steel production, and certainly to agriculture. While Atlantic OCS leasing and development would help the nation and its economy, it would also have a significant positive effect on our state's economy.

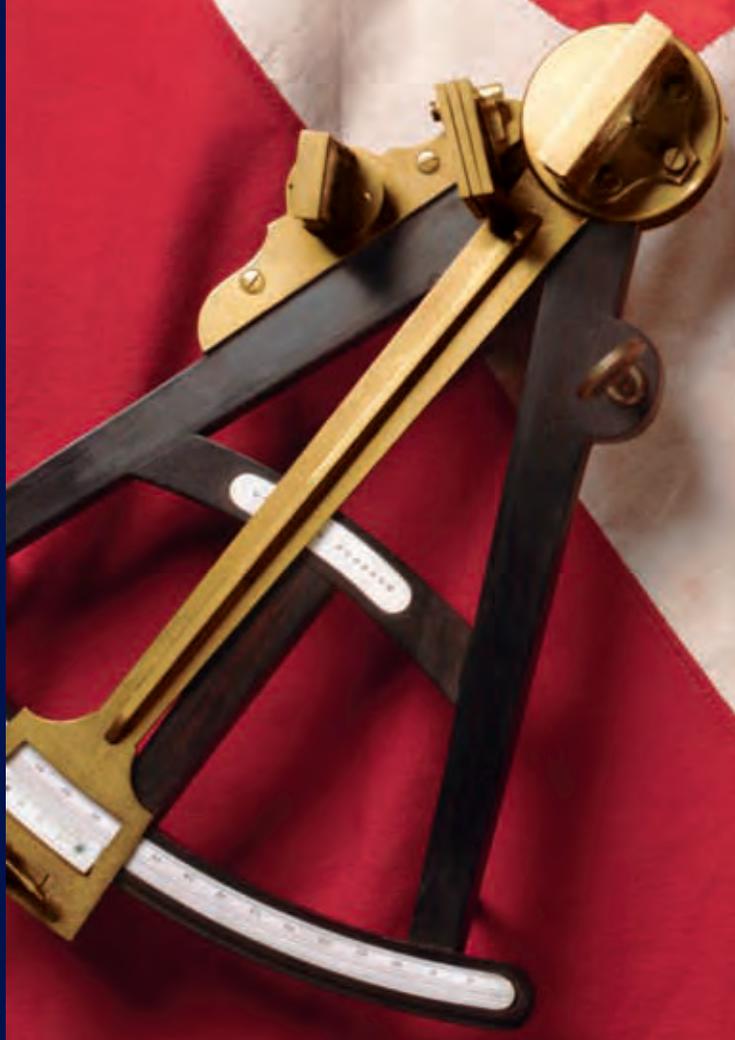
The South Carolina Farm Bureau supports efforts by the Bureau of Ocean Management in beginning the process of opening the Atlantic OCS to drilling for oil and gas resources, increasing American's energy security and reducing the price of oil and gas for America's farmers. Thank you for consideration of our comments on this important issue.

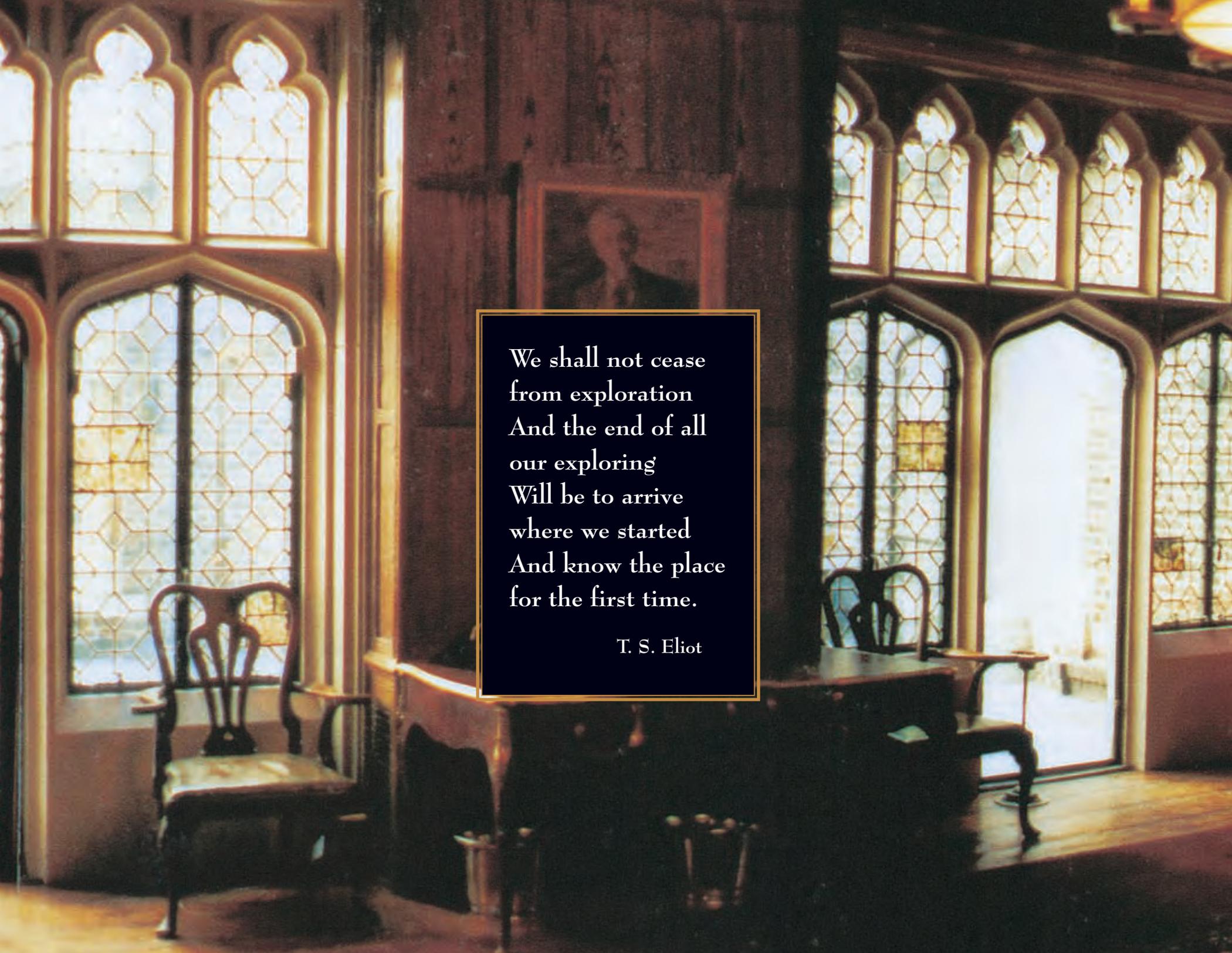
Sincerely,

David M. Winkles
President

DW/bss

THE EXPLORERS CLUB



A photograph of a room with Gothic-style windows and a wooden chair. The room features dark wood paneling and a large window with a diamond-patterned leaded glass design. A wooden chair with a high back and armrests is positioned in front of the window. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

We shall not cease
from exploration
And the end of all
our exploring
Will be to arrive
where we started
And know the place
for the first time.

T. S. Eliot

For sure – the role of the explorer in the field remains an important one as there is still a lot to uncover. Our future will continue to be shaped by the explorers of today and tomorrow. Present and future explorers will continue to embody the same qualities and instincts required of the earliest adventurers, whose vision, courage and determination overcame the field's many obstacles, adapting to new circumstances and furthering new research.

Exploration and the discovery process will remain at the forefront as we struggle to find ways to balance and manage our natural world while providing for its peoples. More and more, exploration and field research will serve to provide information critical to our understanding of the state of health of the natural processes of the planet, as well as aiding in the monitoring and maintaining of environmental equilibriums, providing analytical evidence to help pinpoint where natural buffers and balances may have broken down, and in effecting ecological landscapes.

Going forward, exploration may still embody a personal journey, but it cannot represent a personal exploit. Today's discoverers are overcoming risk and uncertainty while tackling concerns relating to planetary survival relevant to all.



Lorie M.L. Karnath
President



To further general exploration, to spread knowledge thereof...
to encourage explorers in their work, and especially to bring them into
personal contact and unite them in the bonds of good fellowship.

The Explorers Club Charter, 1905



IN THE BEGINNING

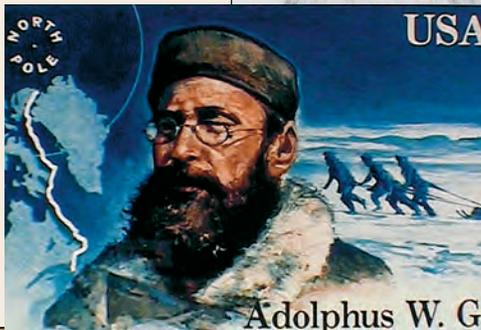
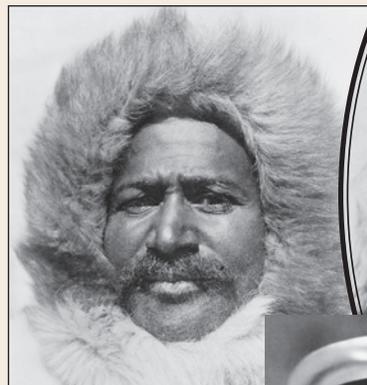
The year was 1904. The spirit of exploration was running high. Theodore Roosevelt, America's premier adventurer President, was still in the White House. The Wright Brothers' flying machine was barely off the ground; air travel was years away from reducing the globe to an accessible sphere. A few explorers determined to reach the North Pole had captured the imagination of the Western world. Many geographic regions remained undiscovered. Spurred by the challenges of reaching the unreachable and the scientific desire to pry from the earth its long-held secrets, a hardy band of gentleman-adventurers came together to form The Explorers Club in New York City.

The idea began with Henry Collins Walsh, an author and war correspondent who had sailed with Frederick A. Cook's 1894 Arctic expedition aboard the ill-fated *SS Miranda*. On their return to New York, Walsh and his fellow survivors, eager to "keep green their friendship," organized the Arctic Club, which came to embrace nearly every prominent polar explorer in the United States and abroad. So successful was it that a core of its members, together with friends who had explored in other regions, decided to found the more inclusive Explorers Club. The charter members were a diverse group representing a myriad of interests and walks of life. Their stated mission: "promote exploration by all possible means."

Incorporated in 1905, The Explorers Club in its earliest years met in simple rented rooms. Its first four presidents were famed Arctic explorers Adolphus W. Greely, Cook, Robert E. Peary and David L. Brainard. Under Brainard in 1912, the Club found a permanent home in a loft on Amsterdam Avenue. There, members began holding regular meetings and gala dinners and assembling the books, maps, trophies and memorabilia that would grow into a remarkable library and muse-

um of exploration and travel. Returning explorers and visiting scientists were invited to share their experiences in public and member lectures. By the 1920s, the Club was aiding serious exploration and field science.

In 1965, the Club purchased a Tudor-style mansion on East 70th Street, in the historic Upper East Side. With its twin-arched façade of brick and limestone, leaded glass windows and carved oak interiors, the Lowell Thomas building, named for the noted explorer and broadcaster, has become the physical symbol of the Club's high purposes, embodying the history of exploration and the passionate quest for new knowledge.



Adolphus W. Greely



Previous pages:
Explorers Club library
with view toward
15th c. French terrace
arcade. Photo Frank
Abbracciamento

Opposite: Explorers
Club banquet,
Waldorf-Astoria,
September 23, 1909.

Clockwise from top:
Ernest Shackleton,
whose inspired leader-
ship saved *Endurance*
crew attempting
first crossing of
Antarctic continent,
1914-1916.

David Brainard
survived 3 ice-bound
winters on Ellesmere,
high Arctic, 1881-
1884.

Robert Peary
claimed to be the
first to reach the
North Pole, 1909.

Adolphus Greely
led ill-fated Lady
Franklin Bay
Expedition on
Ellesmere.
Source: 1985
USPS, All rights
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with permission

Matthew Henson,
master sledger and
dog handler,
Peary's partner
in Arctic exploration.
Source:
Library of Congress



Clockwise from above: Wally Herbert, polar explorer, historian, artist, with 3 companions dogsledged across Arctic Ocean via North Pole in last of old-style geographical "firsts," 1969.

Fridtjof Nansen made first crossing of Greenland, 1888; discovered deep polar basin; reached farthest north, 1896; won Nobel Peace Prize, 1922. *Photo A.B. Wilse, Norse Folkemuseum*

Roald Amundsen, first to navigate Northwest Passage, 1903–1906; conquered South Pole before Robert Falcon Scott, 1911; passed over North Pole by airship, 1926.

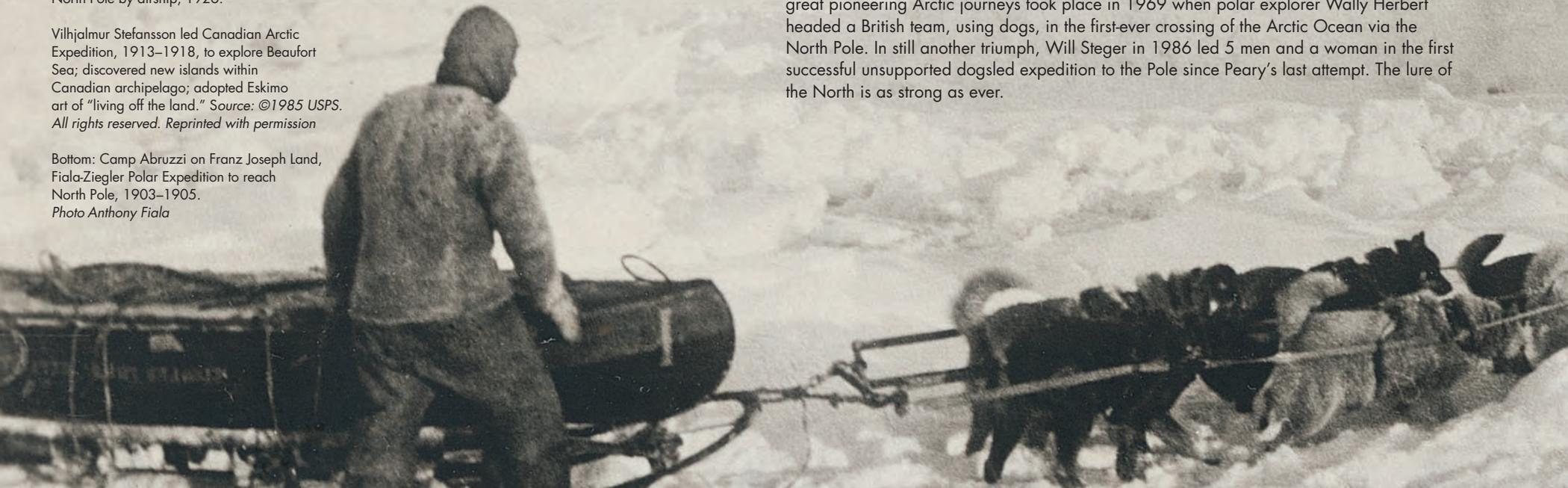
Vilhjalmur Stefansson led Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913–1918, to explore Beaufort Sea; discovered new islands within Canadian archipelago; adopted Eskimo art of "living off the land." *Source: ©1985 USPS. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission*

Bottom: Camp Abruzzi on Franz Joseph Land, Fiala-Ziegler Polar Expedition to reach North Pole, 1903–1905. *Photo Anthony Fiala*



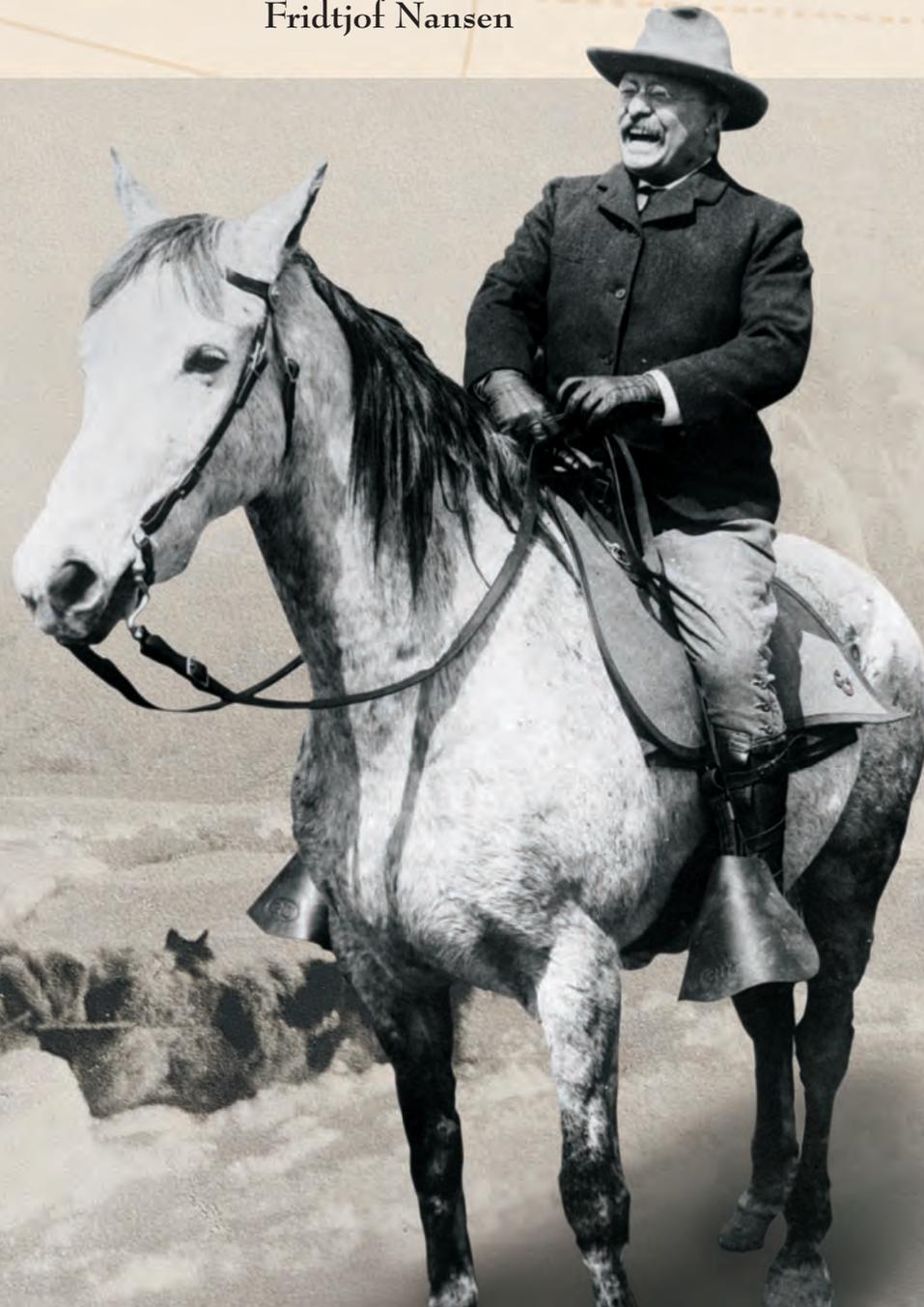
Lure of the North

The North Pole has a mysterious magic for those who yearn to stand at the point where the world's time zones converge. The most obsessive of all seekers, and one of the first to claim the Pole, was Robert Peary. Peary's several attempts, made with his partner Matthew Henson, were preceded by the spectacular, death-defying achievements of the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen, who reached farthest north by dog sledge at 86° 10' in 1896, leaving behind his rounded-keel ship *Fram*, which, with its crew continued, to drift with the currents clear across the Arctic Ocean. Four years later an Italian expedition led by the Duke of Abruzzi advanced to 86° 34', at great human cost. Peary eventually exceeded all those before him, telegraphing from Labrador that he had reached the Pole on April 6, 1909. Meantime, the physician and explorer Frederick Cook made a rival claim to an earlier attainment of the Pole. Whether or not either of them actually stood on that imaginary spot is still a matter of heated debate, although Peary certainly approached it. The last of the great pioneering Arctic journeys took place in 1969 when polar explorer Wally Herbert headed a British team, using dogs, in the first-ever crossing of the Arctic Ocean via the North Pole. In still another triumph, Will Steger in 1986 led 5 men and a woman in the first successful unsupported dogsled expedition to the Pole since Peary's last attempt. The lure of the North is as strong as ever.



. . . the limits of the unknown had to recede
step by step before the ever-increasing yearning
of the human mind after light and knowledge. . .

Fridtjof Nansen



Left: Teddy Roosevelt,
soldier, big game
hunter, conservationist;
as U.S. President,
1901-1908, vastly
expanded nation's forest
reserves. Source:
*American Museum of
Natural History Library*



Clockwise from top:
From base at "Little
America," Richard Byrd
and pilot Bernt
Balchen made historic
flight over
South Pole, 1929.

Charles Lindbergh
flew into history with
solo flight across the
Atlantic in Spirit of St.
Louis, 1927. *Courtesy
Lindbergh Foundation*

Lowell Thomas,
CBS correspondent,
explorer, brought
T.E. Lawrence world fame
in coverage of WWI
desert campaigns, 1917.

Roy Chapman Andrews
whose expedition to
Gobi Desert, 1923,
unearthed first known
specimens of *Velociraptor*
and fossilized eggs
of carnivorous dinosaur.
Source: AMNH Library





Far better it is to dare mighty things,
even though chequered by failure,
than to dwell in that perpetual twilight
that knows not victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

PUSHING THE FRONTIERS

Today, The Explorers Club is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to the advancement of field research, scientific exploration and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. The Club encourages the exploration of land, sea, air and space, with particular emphasis on the physical and biological sciences and on resource conservation. As a gathering place and unifying force for explorers and field scientists the world over, it serves as a base for expedition planning, presentations, meetings and events and as a haven for the serious researcher. A major thrust is the orientation of high school, college and graduate students toward careers in exploration and field science.

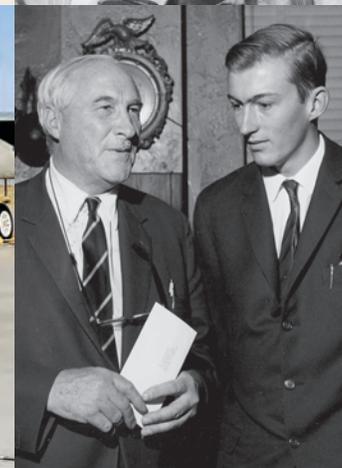
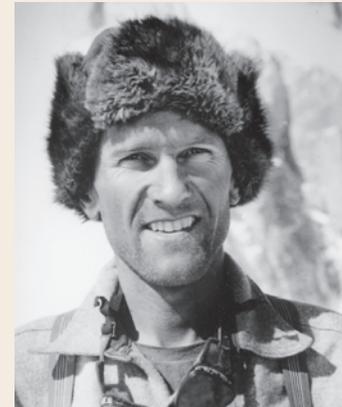
The organization has 30 chapters around the globe, with some 3,000 members from every continent and more than 60 countries. From the polar regions to the jungles and deserts, from the deep seas to the frontiers of space, the Club provides a pivotal connection between past and present, offering to those who take up the banner of scientific exploration the chance to go where no one has gone before.

Linked to the Club are some of the most revered names in exploration and discovery: Peary, Henson, Scott, Shackleton, Byrd, Rasmussen, Stefansson, Roosevelt, Lindbergh, Hillary, Leakey and Goodall. Many played a leading role in its early history—such towering figures as Fridtjof Nansen, whose ship *Fram* completed an epic drift across the frozen Arctic Ocean; Roald Amundsen, who won the prize of the South Pole; Roy Chapman Andrews, whose Mongolian expedition first uncovered fossilized dinosaur eggs; Ardito Desio, who led the first ascent of K2; and Thor Heyerdahl, who crossed the Pacific Ocean in the balsa-wood raft *Kon-Tiki*.

Others whose daring searches have brought them to the ends of earth and space are Wally Herbert, who made the first surface cross-

ing by dogsled of the Arctic Ocean; Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh, USN, who commanded the bathyscaphe *Trieste* that descended 35,810 feet into the Marianas Trench; aviator Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier; John Glenn, the first to orbit the earth; Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the first to walk on the moon; Sylvia Earle, who made the deepest untethered solo dive ever recorded; Donald Johanson and his Ethiopian colleagues, who discovered the bones of “Lucy”; Paul Sereno, who found the first skulls and skeletons of dinosaurs from the cretaceous period in Africa; Sally Ride, the first American woman in space and Kathryn Sullivan, the first woman to walk in space.

The list of members who have challenged the unknown and returned bearing a wealth of knowledge for the benefit of humanity is long and impressive. The achievements of these pioneers of exploration have helped to change the way we view our planet and ourselves. Their ranks continue to grow as new generations build on the achievements of the past, adding luster to the Club’s renown.



Opposite: Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on way to Camp IX below south summit of Everest, May 1953. © Royal Geographical Society/London

North face of Mt. Everest at sunset. Photo Scott Hamilton

Left to right: Oceanographer and diver Sylvia Earle pioneered study of marine ecosystems. Courtesy Sylvia Earle

Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in 1947.

Mountaineer, innovator in aerial photography, Bradford Washburn mapped Mt. McKinley, Grand Canyon and Everest in the 1930s and '40s.

Paleoanthropologists Louis and Richard Leakey (with Mary Leakey) made spectacular discoveries of early human ancestors in Africa.



Sally K. Ride

Signatories of The Explorers Club, 1905



David L. Brainard

Arctic explorer, one of the group stranded for 3 ice-bound winters in the Arctic with Adolphus W. Greely.

Frank M. Chapman

Ornithologist, curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History.

Frederick A. Cook

Physician, ethnologist, experienced polar explorer who claimed to be the first to reach the North Pole and to summit Mount McKinley.

Herschel C. Parker

Professor of physics, mountaineer credited with many first ascents in Alaska.

Marshall H. Saville

Archaeologist, author, veteran of many expeditions in the United States and Mexico.

Henry C. Walsh

Author, Spanish-American war correspondent for the *New York Herald* and *Harper's Weekly*, explorer of Latin America and the Arctic.

Casper Whitney

Author, magazine editor who explored in North and South America and in the South Pacific.



Opposite: Astrophysicist, astronaut Sally Ride became first American woman in space on shuttle *Challenger*, 1983. Source: NASA

Astronauts Buzz Aldrin, top, and Neil Armstrong made historic moon walk July 20, 1969. Source: NASA

John Glenn, above, blasted into orbit at 17,500 mph, 160 miles above earth Feb. 20, 1962; returned to space, age 77, after long service as U.S. senator (D-Ohio). Source: NASA



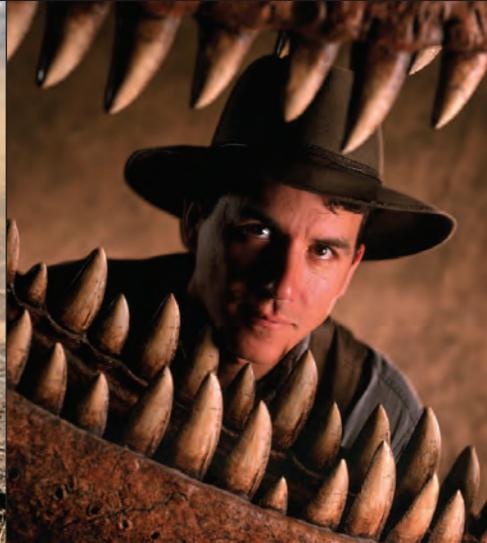
Above: In triumph of aviation, Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones after nearly 20 days became first to circle earth nonstop in a hot-air balloon, 1999. Courtesy Bertrand Piccard

Left: The bathyscaphe Trieste dropped Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh to bottom of Marianas Trench, 1960. Life cover, photo John Launois



Jim Fowler, naturalist, educator, TV host, authority on predatory birds; with Andean condor. *Courtesy Jim Fowler*

Jane Goodall, ethologist whose observations of wild chimpanzees over 35 years changed thought on evolution of human behavior. *Photo Michael Neugebauer; Source: Jane Goodall Institute*



Bottom right: Paleontologist Paul Sereno found new dinosaur species on several continents. *National Geographic Society Image Collection*

Bottom left: Zoologist George Schaller's animal behavior research has helped preserve critical habitat. *Courtesy George Schaller*

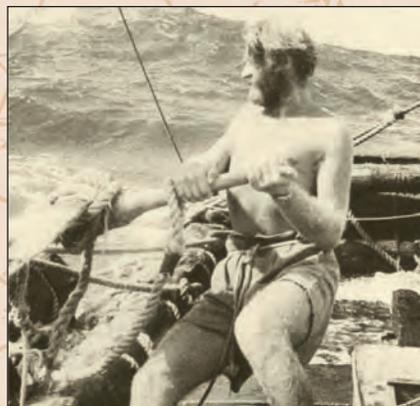
Background: Study for Klipspringer Group, 1926, by William Leigh for AMNH diorama. *Photo Paul Jeheber*





Flag 123: Thor Heyerdahl, the Maverick Who Challenged Prevailing Scientific Thought

On April 28, 1947, a young Norwegian ethnologist and adventurer named Thor Heyerdahl set sail with a crew of 5 from Callao, Peru, aboard the raft *Kon-Tiki* carrying Explorers Club flag 123. Built of nine balsa-wood logs lashed together, the 45-foot platform battled wind and sea across the Pacific, landing in Polynesia 101 days later. In proving the seaworthiness of this primitive water craft, Heyerdahl also demonstrated that early South Americans, plying the Pacific in a similar raft, might have played a role in the colonization of Polynesia. *Kon-Tiki*, the first of Heyerdahl's sea-going expeditions, would be followed by *Ra* in May 1969 and *Ra II*, in the spring of 1970, to determine if Egyptian papyrus boats of 4,000 years ago were capable of crossing the Atlantic, and by the Tigris expedition over the winter of 1977-78, in which Heyerdahl and his crew would attempt to sail a reed boat based on a Sumerian design down the Tigris River to the Red Sea.



(Heyerdahl images courtesy Heyerdahl Collection)

Flag 189: Eugenie Clark, A Human Fish under Water

Ichthyologist Eugenie Clark, known as "the shark lady," has studied the anatomy, physiology, intelligence and behavior of many kinds of fish around the world. A consummate helmet diver and snorkeler, she and her co-leader Ann McGovern carried The Explorers Club flag in 1986



on an underwater survey of the ecology of the coral reef of South China, off the islands of southern Hainan. They and 14 other experts gathered material for an underwater guide to fishes of this unexplored region of the Indo-Pacific and while there met with aquarium and marine biologists, pearl divers and members of the only scuba diving school in China. They dived with the Chinese Women's Diving Brigade and made numerous dives off two islands not yet on any map. *Courtesy Eugenie Clark*

Flag 183: Anna Roosevelt, Applying Physics to Archaeology

Renowned archaeologist Anna Roosevelt in 1983 carried The Explorers Club flag on her archaeophysical research on Marajó Island in Brazil. Her purpose: to study evidence of prehistoric human occupation using geophysical techniques. Human cultural and biological evolution in the tropical lowlands is still very poorly documented, despite the importance of the tropics in the history of human adaptation. In general the climate is thought to destroy



organic and stratigraphic remains. The physical evidence of an Amazonian chiefdom, dating from 1300 to 400 B.C., on Marajó Island is abundant, however, and Roosevelt's fieldwork used interdisciplinary methods to uncover new information about the composition, organization, activities and conditions of life of the ancient population. *Courtesy Anna Roosevelt*

When the wind stirs, the Flag moves, seems
about to speak, to tell of adventure, of brave men
who have died, of wanderers whose bones litter
the unknown lands they fought.

Frans Blom



CARRYING THE FLAG



A glorious history of courage is wrapped in the folds of The Explorers Club flag. Adopted in 1925, the current flag was designed by Frederick Dellenbaugh, artist on the 1871 Powell expedition down the Colorado River and a founding member of the Club. Between the red of Courage and the blue of Fidelity lies a broad white diagonal stripe displaying the Club's initials and a compass rose, symbolizing the worldwide circle of the Club's interests.

The Explorers Club flag has crossed every continent. It has flown from both poles and from the highest peaks of the greatest mountain ranges. It has traveled to the depths of the ocean and orbited the moon. The flag is a symbol of the vision, commitment, daring, toughness and sheer tenacity required of those members who have the honor of carrying it. Only the board of directors may confer the flag, and many a distinguished explorer-scientist has been proud to carry it. For those who have, it stands as a reminder of the dignity and the sincere work of exploration and research that the Club expects of its own and a testament to what the human spirit can achieve.

There have been well over 300 major flag expeditions, among

them Richard Byrd's historic flight over the South Pole in 1929; Hubert Wilkins' overflight from Pt. Barrow to Spitsbergen in 1928; Roy Chapman Andrews' expeditions in the Gobi Desert in the 1920s; the Lincoln Ellsworth Antarctic Flight Expedition in 1938 in which Wilkins was second in command; Thor Heyerdahl's crossing of the Pacific on a balsa raft in 1947; and Robert Ballard's *Titanic*, *Bismark*, *Lusitania*, and *Isis* operations over the past 20 years.

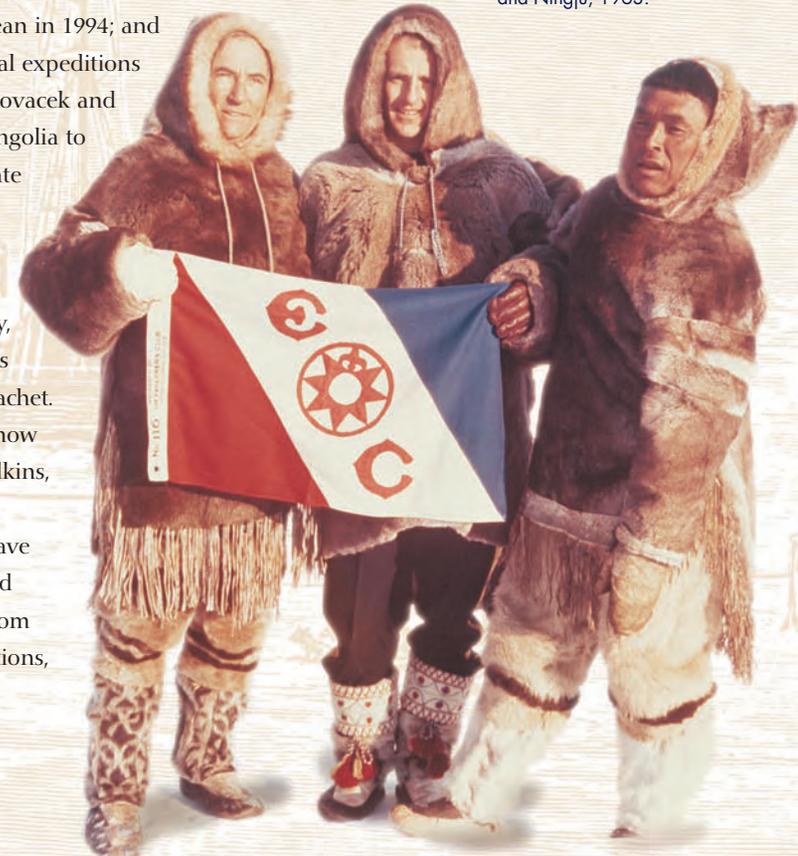
More recent flag expeditions include Willard Bascom's 1970-90 deep-sea probes and Black Sea explorations; Naomi Uemura's solo trek to the North Pole by dogsled in 1979; Clive Cussler's 1979 search for John Paul Jones' ship, *Bonhomme Richard*; Ranulph Fiennes' Transglobe Expedition in 1981; Anna Roosevelt's 1983 paleoanthropological research on Marajó Island, Brazil; Steve Fossett's first balloon crossing of the Indian Ocean in 1994; and the 1991-94 paleontological expeditions of Mark Norell, Michael Novacek and Malcolm McKenna in Mongolia to collect cretaceous vertebrate remains.

There are 202 numbered flags. As some have been used repeatedly, each flag has developed its own special history and cachet. A few of the famous and now fragile ones carried by Wilkins, Robert Bartlett, Andrews, Heyerdahl and Uemura have been decommissioned, and several, including those from the Byrd Antarctic expeditions, have been lost.

Opposite: Member of Ruwenzori Mountains Expedition, 1927, holding flag 4. Photo James P. Chapin

Left: Will Steger and team took flag 18 on traverse of Antarctica, 1989. Courtesy Will Steger

Lewis Cotlow, called last of great footsloggers, holding flag 116 on Ellesmere with constables R.C. Currie and Ningju, 1963.



It is not for headlines that a man explores the lonely
ends of the earth, but for the knowledge that he will
bring back of places that no man has ever seen before.

Bernt Balchen



REPORTING FROM THE FIELD

Along with its encouragement of fieldwork, The Explorers Club invites returning explorer-scientists to share the fruits of their experience in public lectures and member events and in the Club's own quarterly journal. The library, archives and map room are open to qualified scientists, journalists, historians, students and other researchers who are assisted in every way possible by the professional staff.

The Club's program of grants enabling talented young men and women to participate in summer field projects has helped train several thousand students at a pivotal stage in their career. Recipients show a willingness to sacrifice security and physical comfort to satisfy a consuming curiosity about the natural world. One day they will be our leaders in science, technology and industry.

The Explorers Club Annual Dinner, held each March in New York, draws together an estimated 1,400 individuals with a common zest for exploration and scientific field research. The evening features a galaxy of explorers and honors the year's achievements in talks and video – from the silent, eerie majesty of sunken ships to stunning images of the cosmos – with naturalist Jim Fowler and his "special animal friends" boosting world wildlife conservation. The Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner, held on special occasions, brings international attention to groups of outstanding explorers.

Exploration and field science are important not only for the attainment of an ultimate objective, but for what is learned along the way, forging paths for others to follow and lighting the road ahead. The investigations conducted by Club members have increased our knowledge in countless areas. Mountain studies have yielded new information on the nature of alpine ecosystems, the effects of altitude and oxygen deprivation on human performance and the impact of erosion on wildlife. Everest climbs have tested life-saving equipment and medical innovations.

Ocean explorations have revolutionized our understanding of geology and biology and revealed strange new life forms. Rainforest studies have proved the value of pristine forests and unearthed new substances for pharmacology. Marine archaeology has found traces of ancient civilizations on the sea floor. Polar research has measured sea-ice extent and overall thickness in the Arctic and located the ozone hole over the Antarctic.

Many a heroic explorer has earned that distinction through the medium of science. In 1928, Hubert Wilkins' interest in meteorology and long-range forecasts led him to study the movement of air above the Arctic by the only means possible: an airplane. In 1934, William Beebe was able to observe deep-sea animals in their natural habitat only by descending thousands of feet below the surface in a bathysphere. The difference was, no one had ever done it before.



Opposite:
Johan Reinhard recovered preserved Inca "ice maiden" at 20,700 feet in 1995.
Courtesy Johan Reinhard

Left to right:
Donald Johanson, paleoanthropologist, discovered nearly complete skeleton of *Australopithecus afarensis*, aka "Lucy."
Source: Institute of Human Origins

Wade Davis, anthropologist, botanical explorer in Amazon and Andes, calls botany "the perfect conduit to culture."
Photo Thad Samuels
Abell II/NGS Image Collection

John Loret, marine biologist, expert on Easter Island history, ethnology, ecology.
Photo John Kluster



Explorers Club, Presidents

Adolphus W. Greely, 1905-1906

Frederick A. Cook, 1907-1908

Robert E. Peary, 1909-1911

1913-1916

David L. Brainard, 1912-1913

Carl E. Akeley, 1917-1918

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, 1919-1922

1937-1939

George G. Heye, 1922-1925

1928-1930

James B. Ford, 1926-1927

Roy Chapman Andrews, 1931-1934

Walter Granger, 1935-1937

Herbert J. Spinden, 1940-1943

Alexander Wetmore, 1944-1946

Clyde Fisher, 1947-1948

James P. Chapin, 1949-1950

John Tee-Van, 1951-1952

Edward M. Weyer, Jr., 1953-1954

Serge A. Korff, 1955-1958

1963-1965

Charles B. Hitchcock, 1959-1961

John C. Pallister, 1961-1963

Edward C. Sweeney, 1965-1967

Walter A. Wood, 1967-1971

Hobart M. Van Deusen, 1971-1973

Russell H. Gurnee, 1973-1975

E. Lovell Becker, 1975-1976

Virgil Kauffman, 1976-1978

Charles F. Brush, 1978-1981

George V. B. Cochran, 1981-1985

John M. Levinson, 1985-1987

John C. D. Bruno, 1987-1989

Nicholas Sullivan, 1989-1991

David H. Swanson, 1991-1993

John Loret, 1993-1996

Alfred S. McLaren, 1996-2000

Faanya Rose, 2000-2002

Richard C. Wiese, 2002-2006

Daniel A. Bennett, 2006-2009

Lorie M.L. Karnath 2009-

The Wonderful World Below

The dream of exploring the dark abyssal seas dates back at least to Alexander the Great, but it wasn't until the 1930s that technology caught up with vision. Charles William Beebe achieved world fame for his record descent to 3,028 feet in a bathysphere designed by Otis Barton in 1934. Little more than a hollow sphere with 3 circular windows that could withstand severe underwater pressure, the submersible allowed Beebe to observe creatures alive in their natural habitat at mid-ocean depths and discover many new life forms. The ability to travel under water to remote subterranean regions captured the imagination of George Hubert Wilkins, who commanded the first submarine, *Nautilus*, in a failed attempt to cross the Arctic Ocean under ice via the North Pole in 1931. Wilkins' ambition was realized in 1958 when the nuclear-powered submarine, also dubbed *Nautilus*, made the first successful transpolar cruise beneath the ice pack. With the invention of small manned submersibles that could be piloted to great depths, marine research in the 1960s took a giant leap forward, permitting scientists like Robert Ballard to study the sea floor directly. Its flexibility doomed the unwieldy bathyscaphe which had taken Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard to the bottom of the Marianas Trench. The development of remote operating vehicles connected by optic tether to a surface ship led Ballard to the *RMS Titanic* in 1985. Now, in an attempt to navigate the deepest reaches of the ocean, engineer Graham Hawkes is designing a series of maneuverable, battery-powered, winged submersibles, based on the prototype called *Deep Flight*. If successful, it will operate independently of a support ship.



Above left:
William Beebe and Otis
Barton tested bathysphere
in Sargasso Sea, 1934.
© Ralph White\Corbis



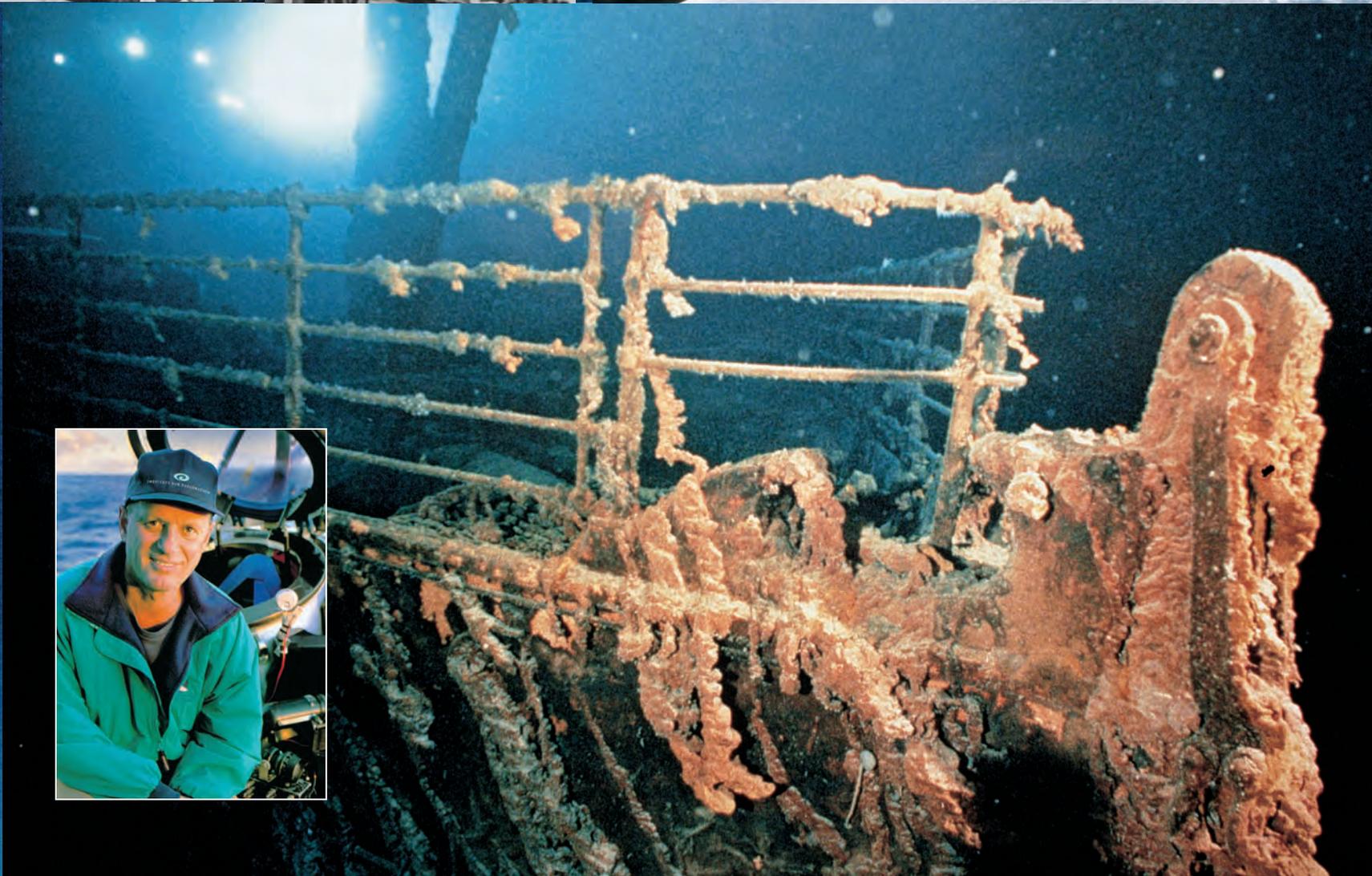
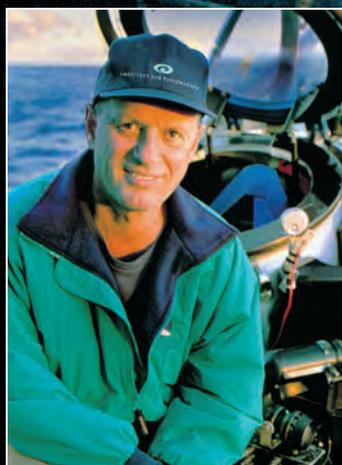
Above middle: Arctic and
Antarctic explorer
Hubert Wilkins led first
submarine attempt to
reach North Pole, 1931.

Above right:
USS Queenfish captained
by Alfred S. McLaren,
1970, at North Pole on
way to first survey of
Siberian continental shelf.
Courtesy Alfred S.
McLaren

Middle right:
Graham Hawkes, in
revolutionary winged
submersible *Deep Flight
Aviator*, 2002. Courtesy
Graham Hawkes

Lower right:
Robert Ballard's discovery
of *Titanic* in 1985 was
succeeded by other
important shipwreck finds
in deep sea. Courtesy
Institute for Exploration

Right: Bow of *Titanic*
illuminated by *Mir* sub-
mersibles at bottom of
North Atlantic.
Courtesy © Ralph White



ENCOURAGING YOUNG EXPLORERS

Right: Ted Gilliland, Rocky River High School, Ohio; student member with interests in entomology and ornithology. Photo Pam Gilliland

Right: Young and old participated in the 2003 Central Park BioBlitz, organized by the Club. Photo Harriet Snyder

Inside back cover: Luke Dollar in the field with lemur. Dollar images courtesy Luke Dollar

Opposite: Exploration Fund grantee Martin Wilmsing, University of Alaska, flanked by fellow researchers studying spruce tree growth in experimental plot above treeline, Brooks Range, northern Alaska. Courtesy © Martin Wilmsing

The longing to know begins early in life. Unimpeded, it can become a lifelong obsession. For marine biologist Sylvia Earle, whose discoveries, books and lectures have enlarged our appreciation of deep-ocean life, a simple swim spawned a determination to conserve the wilderness of the sea. For high-altitude archaeologist Johan Reinhard, who recovered the Inca "ice maiden" on Peru's Mount Ampato, a boyhood reading of Halliburton's *Book of Marvels* ignited an abiding passion for scientific exploration. For ethnobotanist Wade Davis, a love of plants opened his eyes to the inseparable relationship of the biosphere to human cultural diversity.

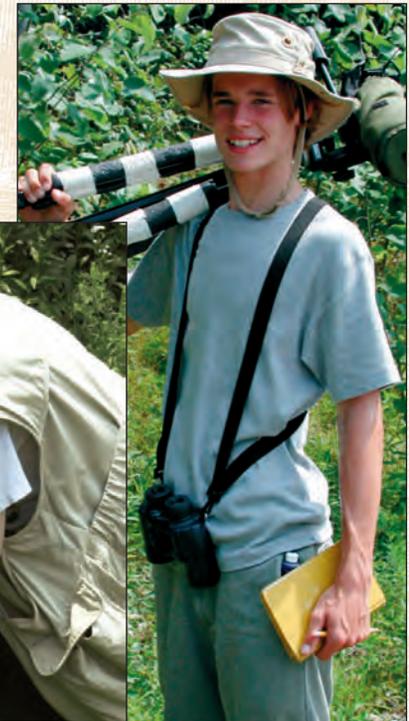
A major goal of The Explorers Club is to provide timely encouragement to young men and women who stand at the threshold of an exciting career in field science. The Club achieves this through its student member activities and especially its grant programs: the Youth Activities Fund, aimed at high school and college students, and the complementary Exploration Fund, for graduate students to aid field research leading to an advanced degree.

Both funds were established to help build a reservoir of talented youth from all social and economic backgrounds willing to go to the ends of the earth and beyond to satisfy their thirst for knowledge and understanding. Grants consist of direct financial support or the arrangement of opportunities to take part in expeditions under the guidance of noted explorer-scientists during the summer months.

Up to 60 awards are given out annually in each program for fieldwork conducted anywhere in the world. The effect of this recognition on students' lives and career directions is far out of proportion to the dollar amounts given, opening doors for future support and enhancing professional opportunities. "I have definitely found my calling in life," testified one grantee after a summer at the Orangutan Research and Conservation Program in Borneo. "Without grants from organizations like The Explorers

Club, graduate students like myself would not have the means to study this fantastic world above the forest floor," wrote Stephen Yanoviak, from the University of Oklahoma. Astrophysicist Neil de Grasse Tyson, Director of the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History, is one of hundreds of eminent scientists who received the Club's support as an undergraduate.

Student projects range from the jungles of Belize to the glaciers of Greenland, from the mountains of Malawi to the Gulf of Tribuga. In the past few years, Mayan sinkholes, the protection of leatherback turtles, excavations at the Sannai Mayuyama site in Japan, deforestation and market economies, effects of forest fires on habitat use, amphibian declines, coral reef restoration, lichens in the Northern Namib Desert, mangrove research in Ecuador, magma chamber conditions on Mt. Rainier and the ecology of migrant warblers exemplify the subjects researched in these summer expeditions.





Learning by Doing

A Youth Activities Fund grant to Lorraine Navarrete, Department of Anthropology, Trinity University, helped support her fieldwork in Quintana Roo, Mexico, where she took part in mapping a Maya site in low jungle for the

Yalahau Regional Ecology Project. "What an experience it was! I was in awe of everything around me for the whole month!" In estimating the number of structures on the site, Navarrete learned to use both a Brunton compass and an optical transit for mapping. In addition, she learned to draw sketch maps and plot the points. "Words cannot do justice in describing the experience of living and working with 20 other people, in dealing with bugs and heat, clearing trees and vines from structures, learning about the culture of the region, and swimming in the sinkholes."

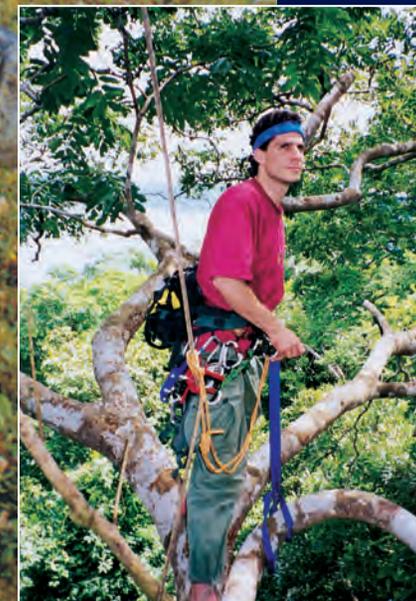
Courtesy Lorraine Navarrete

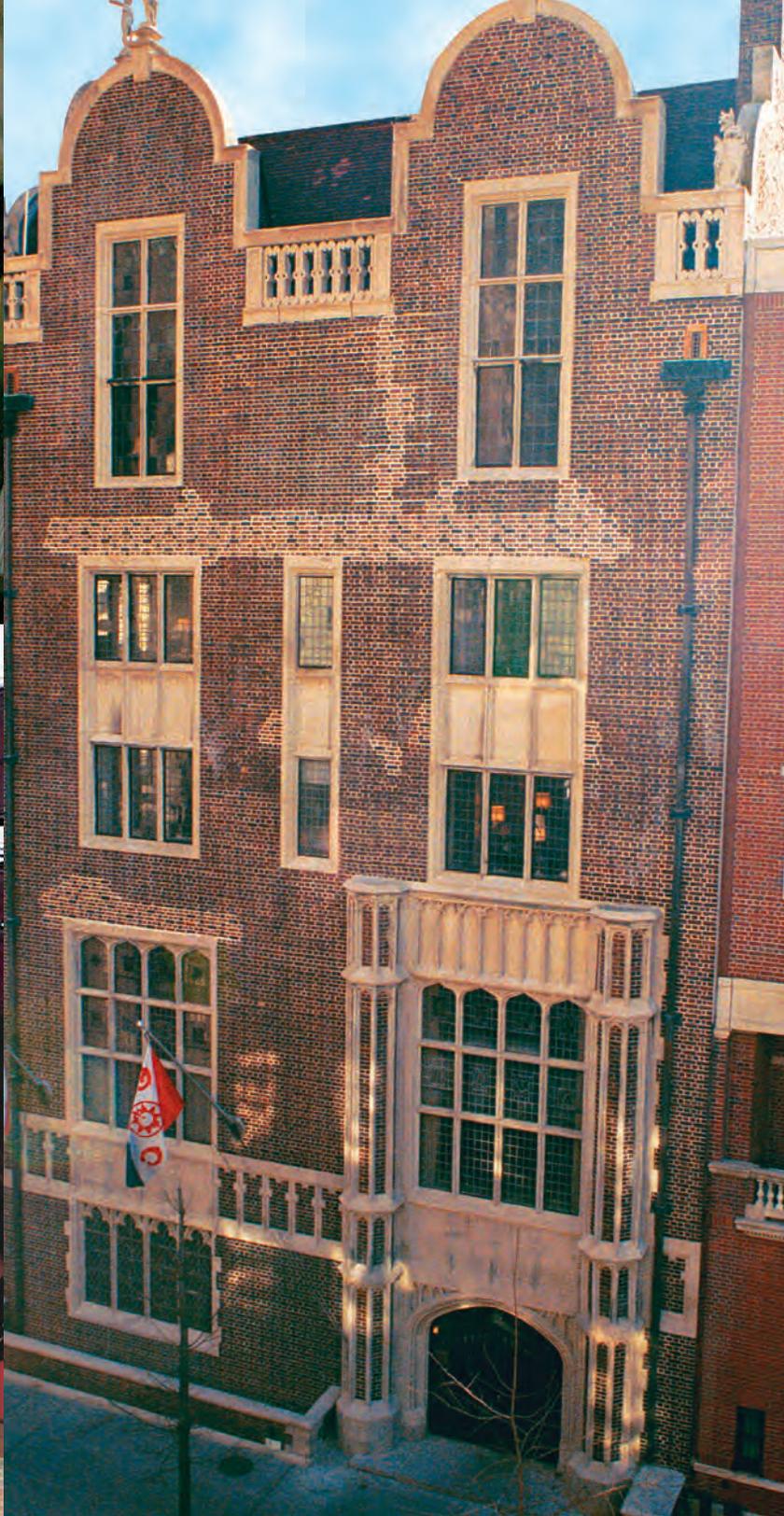
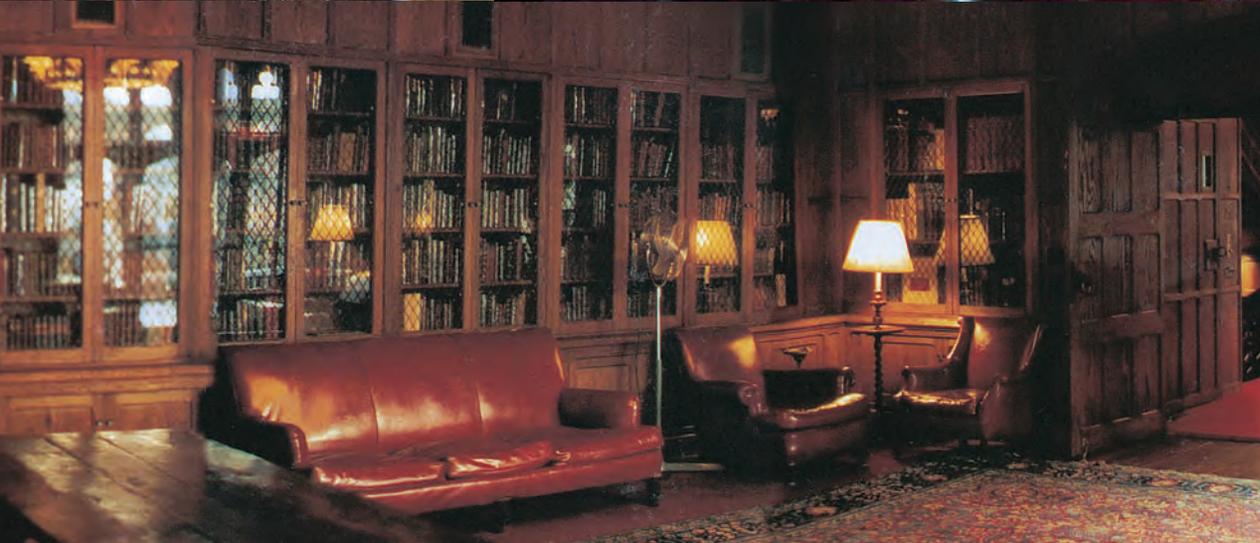


High above the Forest Floor

The rain forest canopy, considered to be the last great biological frontier, is disappearing rapidly with the destructive forces of human population growth. Although study of the canopy has increased in the last several years, little is known about the plants and animals that live there. Stephen Yanoviak, Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, used an Exploration Fund grant to study the community ecology and species composition of water-filled tree-hole communities on Barro Colorado Island, Panama. He initially found

50 different insect species associated with these tree holes and 13 more subsequently. *Courtesy Anna Roosevelt*





SAFEGUARDING THE PAST

The single most important factor in the development of The Explorers Club has been the formation of its library of discovery, exploration and travel. Beginning with donations from Club members, it was substantially augmented by a gift from the Club's 9th president, James B. Ford, which permitted the acquisition of 18th- and 19th-century materials. The library now maintains more than 22,000 cataloged volumes containing many of the classic narratives of exploration. The published work of Explorers Club members, including photography, film and video, are well represented and number in the thousands.

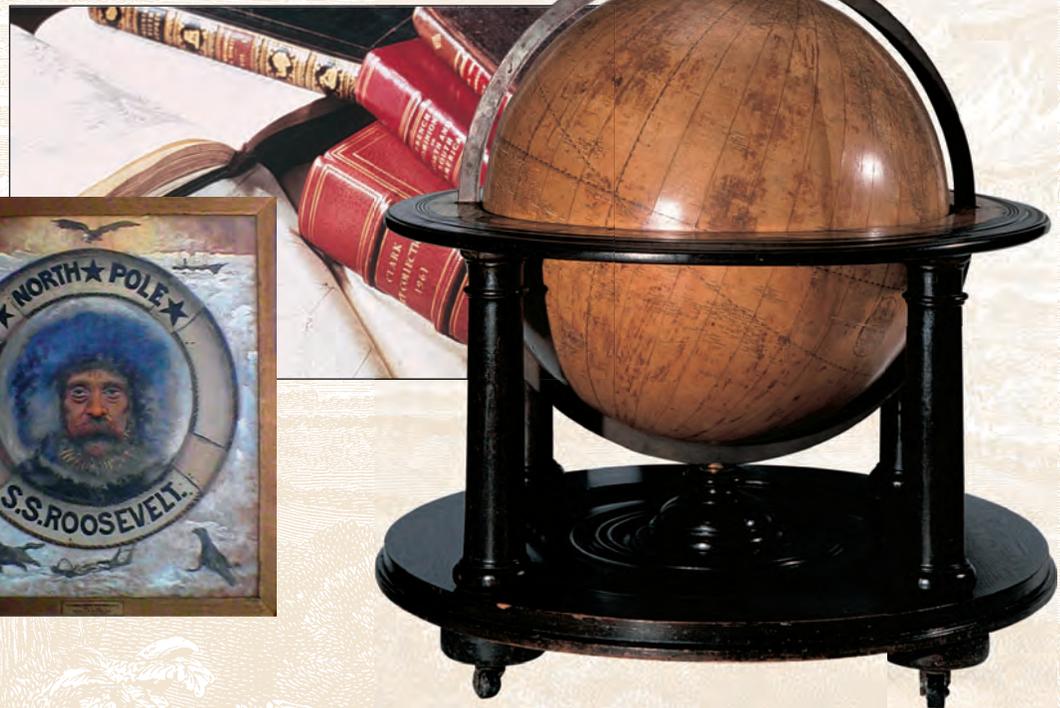
The library is strongest in literature on the polar regions, either first editions or association copies (those inscribed by members). Among its holdings are 500 books from Robert Peary's library in Eagle Island, Maine, and the Hubert Wilkins collection. Books in other domains include the magnificent Napoleonic edition of the *Description de l'Égypte* with the Grande-Jésus plates bound flat; its oldest book, *Iter Ad Terram Sanctam*, printed before 1501, recounting a trip to the Holy Land; the complete scholarly Hakluyt Society editions of travel and exploration classics; and long runs of journals like *The Geographical Journal* of the Royal Geographical Society, the *Polar Record* of the Scott Polar Research Institute and *The American Alpine Journal* of The American Alpine Club.

The Club's archives are a unique repository of log books, diaries, correspondence, engravings and photographs, many of them very rare, as well as early records and membership files of The Explorers Club and its precursor, the Arctic Club. The Sir Edmund P. Hillary Map Room houses more than 2,000 sheet maps, from early charts to recent United States Geological Survey maps, and other reference materials.

In the Club's vast collection of artifacts, furnishings and art of historical significance are one of Robert Peary's sledges built to withstand the lethal climate and terrain of the Arctic for his last attempt at the North Pole; the bell from the *USS Bear* that rescued Adolphus Greely and other starving survivors from Cape Sabine

in 1884 and supported Richard Byrd's second Antarctic expedition; the pick ax used by Robert Falcon Scott to construct his hut at base shelter on Ross Island, Antarctica; and the globe that Thor Heyerdahl used in proposing his plans for the *Kon-Tiki* expedition.

Many Club members were fine graphic artists, among them Rockwell Kent, Albert Operti, Frederick Stokes, Claire Frejus and Frederick Dellenbaugh. Their paintings and drawings illustrating historic expeditions may be found throughout the Lowell Thomas building. Particularly impressive are panoramic studies of African sites by William Leigh, for the habitat groups in the Akeley Hall of African Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History. There are also animal paintings of exceptional quality; portraits in various media of legendary explorers Roald Amundsen, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Hubert Wilkins, Lincoln Ellsworth, Peter Freuchen and others; and the magnificent bronze animal figures created by prominent sculptors James Lippitt Clark, Sally Clark and Carl Akeley.

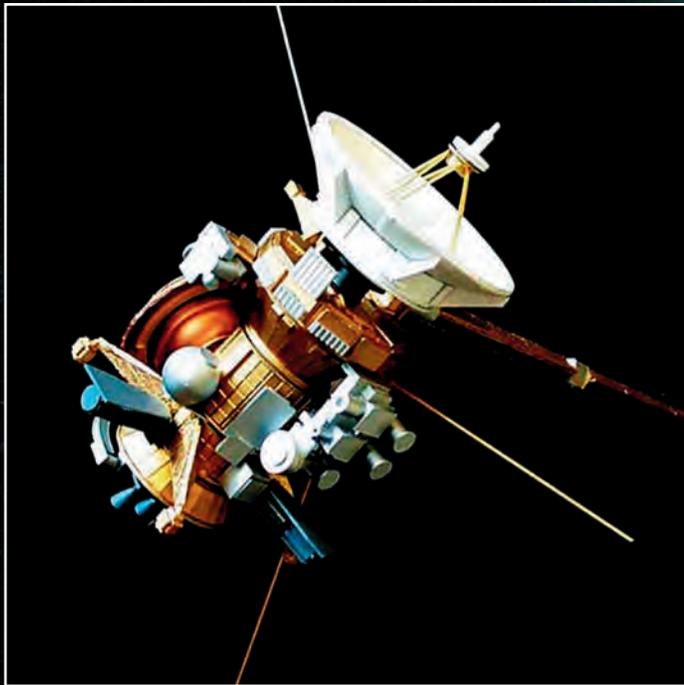


Opposite: Explorers Club façade; far left from top: fabled gallery, board room, Clark Room and library for reserve collection. Photos of façade, gallery, board room, Charles A. Hamilton; of library, Frank Abbracciamento

Below left to right: Robert Peary by Albert Operti, expedition artist on Arctic voyage, 1893-1894.

Early travel reports from Club's reserve collection.

Globe used by Thor Heyerdahl in planning *Kon-Tiki* expedition.



I think an explorer does not belong to yesterday only, but also to tomorrow. His importance is in helping shape the future, in pioneering new trails across sea or land or sky that the world will follow.

Bernt Balchen

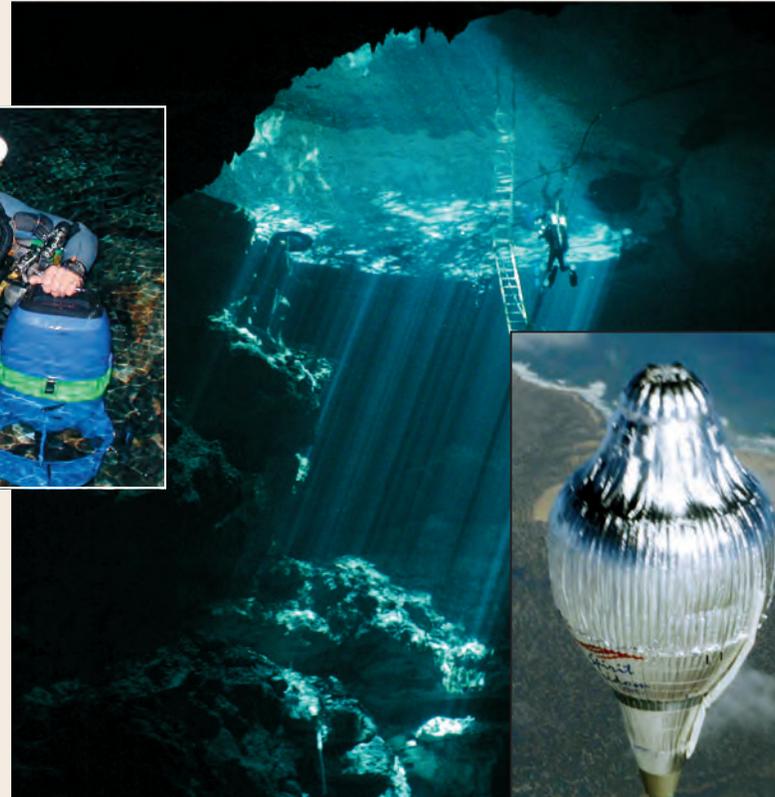
THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Contrary to general belief, up to 97 percent of our planet, specifically the deep sea, remains largely unexplored. More than 100 years from The Explorers Club's beginnings, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new era of scientific and geographic discovery, equal to the heroic age of exploration of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Thanks in part to dramatic advances in technology, in recent years Robert Ballard has found an intact ancient merchant ship at the bottom of the Black Sea; Johan Reinhard has discovered 14 more Inca human sacrifices and 3 preserved mummies in the Andean mountains; Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones have circled the globe by balloon, flying 29,000 miles in less than 20 days; and an international team co-led by diving specialist Sam Meacham, has discovered the largest fresh-water cave system in the world, near the ruins of Tulum, Mexico.

Exploration historically has been about the physical world. And while physical quests will most certainly continue on earth, we have in the past 30 years touched the moon and sent earthcraft to the ends of our galaxy. In the next few decades we will face even more daunting challenges to explore the unknown. Time will be the portal of many of these new ventures, which will encompass further probes into space with, possibly, firm evidence of life elsewhere.

How the future is shaped will fall to the generations to come. It may be no exaggeration to suggest that the very existence of our planet will be in the hands of the young explorers and scientists being trained today. A primary objective, therefore, will be for The Explorers Club to identify the next Jane Goodall, the next Kathryn Sullivan, or the next Johan Reinhard, and to foster those traits of vision, courage and tenacity that make exploration among the most compelling of high-risk enterprises.

The Explorers Club will continue to act as a central meeting place for the discussion and debate of vital issues of the day. It will encourage scientific exploration and field research throughout a wide range of disciplines; nurture the efforts of youthful explorers; maintain an important library of books, maps, manuscripts and other reference materials concerning exploration; support educational activities in the public interest; and report on the exciting findings of its members and notable guests.



Opposite: "Tadpole," a spiral galaxy 420 million light years away. Source: NASA, ACS Science Team and ESA

Cassini, a robotic spacecraft mission in orbit around Saturn, to study the planet and its satellites. Courtesy Brian Sullivan

Sam Meacham, Bill Phillips and Steve Bogaerts led 9-member international team, Grupo de Exploracion Ox Bel Ha, that set world record for deepest cave dive. Labyrinth of underground waterways sacred to Mayan civilization, is threatened by industrial, commercial and residential expansion. Courtesy Grupo de Exploracion Ox Bel Ha

Steve Fossett earned place in aviation history as first balloonist to solo-circumnavigate the globe, 2002. Source: Trevor Col-lens/Gamma

BECOMING A MEMBER

Membership in The Explorers Club is open to men and women who demonstrate credible contributions to field research, scientific exploration and educational dissemination of that knowledge, and to corporations interested in advancing the purposes of the Club by playing a significant role in the many fields of exploration and science.

In considering who is eligible to become a member, the Club makes a distinction between the eco-tourist or traveler and the explorer-scientist. The explorer or field scientist aims to investigate a novel or little-known area of science in order to expand the breadth of a chosen field and ultimately to contribute new knowledge for the benefit of others. Selection is based on an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications and experience as outlined on the application form, sponsoring letters and appended material.

Individual membership falls into several categories. In addition to regular members there are Fellows, whose exploration and field-research activities, including expedition leadership, are documented in refereed journals or other qualified publications. Nearly one-half the membership consists of Fellows.

There are also Honorary Members – those who have rendered distinguished services in the field of exploration and whose ranks are limited to 20 living individuals. Teddy Roosevelt, author, explorer, naturalist and conservationist, was an Honorary Member; others in this category include Ernest Shackleton, Charles Lindbergh, Tenzing Norgay, Edmund Hillary, Chuck Yeager, Sally Ride and John Glenn.

Finally, there are Student Members – young explorers who are enrolled full-time at an accredited educational institution. Student Members do not have voting rights and are not authorized to apply for the Club flag, although they may accompany flag expeditions.

The Explorers Club especially values the participation and support of corporations, many of which design and manufacture equipment used by explorers and field scientists or embrace the Club's philosophy of advancing field research and scientific exploration. Through their membership, corporations are welcome to take part in expedition planning and participate actively in exploration, become partners in the awards to students for field research, or support other programs of the Club. Corporate members have complete access to the Lowell Thomas building and are able to enjoy all the programs and services available to individual members.



Above: Lowell Thomas Dinner 2009 Awardees, with Explorers Club President Lorie Karnath at right. Photo Craig Chesek © The Explorers Club



Right: The Monday night lectures at New York City headquarters are a popular feature at the Club and are frequently sold out. Photo of Jim Fowler, Lorie Karnath and Anne Doubilet at "An Evening with Jim Fowler" from the 2009 Lecture Series.

OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Gifts, Grants and Bequests

Individuals and corporations sharing The Explorers Club's interests in exploration and research are invited to become a Friend, Sponsor or Patron of Exploration and participate in Club activities. Contributions in the form of gifts, grants and bequests may be used at the discretion of the board of directors or restricted to the following established funds:

Endowment Fund

Supports general Club operations and purposes.

Youth Activities Fund

Awards grants to high school students and college undergraduates for fieldwork in a subject of potential career interest.

Exploration Fund

Awards grants to graduate students for field research leading to their advanced degree.

Library Fund

Supports the conservation and preservation of the James B. Ford Library and the Club archives.

Legacy Society

Recognizes and thanks members and friends who wish to contribute to the Club's endowment.

Lowell Thomas Building Fund

Supports restoration and long-term maintenance of the Lowell Thomas building, The Explorers Club headquarters.

Explorers Club Travelers

An educational program that invites the public to join distinguished explorers and scientists on educational tours to remote areas, focusing on natural and cultural history. Tel: 1 (800) 856-8951.

Explorers Journal

The Club's official quarterly of exploration and science. To subscribe, write Subscription Service, *The Explorers Journal*, 46 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021, or Tel: 1 (212) 628-8385.

The Explorers Log

The Club's quarterly newsletter features reports from our 30 chapters and other articles of interest to our Club members.

Explorers Club Website

The website, www.explorers.org, features The Explorers Club's history and current programs, youth grant programs, expedition news and other essential information.



Front cover: Flag 118 and Hadley's Octant, forerunner of sextant. Photo Craig Chesek
Back cover: Peter Hillary on expedition in New Zealand. Photo John Harlin

Explorers Club Chapters

Like the New York headquarters, the regional chapters provide local contact points for the far-flung membership and serve as a meeting ground for explorers, scientists and student explorers the world over. The chapters hold monthly dinners, lectures and seminars. Several award field-research grants to students, publish newsletters and organize a variety of educational and conservation-related activities for members and young people.

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The Explorers Club
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www.explorers.org



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Positively move forward with your preservation of
humans are more important than other species

Name:

Ed Rouse

Title:

V.P. Coastal Environmental Consultant

Organization:

O.T. Birk

Address:

Seaplane 79, 901 Ocean Park

City, State, & Zip Code:

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jay 1pm

#13 Elizabeth Lewis

Sign in or register with your favorite social identity

Report: Virginia second in nation in water pollution

Posted on: 1:43 pm, March 23, 2012, by [Erika Neddenien \(http://wtvr.com/author/wtvrerikanneddenien/\)](http://wtvr.com/author/wtvrerikanneddenien/), updated on: 01:59pm, March 23, 2012



1.1 million pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped into the James River in 2010 according to a new report from Environment Virginia.

RICHMOND, Va. (WTVR) – More toxic chemicals were dumped into Virginia’s waterways in 2010 than nearly any other state, according to a new report from [Environment Virginia \(http://www.environmentvirginia.org/reports\)](http://www.environmentvirginia.org/reports).

18 million pounds of toxic chemicals were released into the Commonwealth’s lakes, rivers and streams according to a release issued by the environmental group. That makes Virginia second to only Indiana in the nation in terms of water pollution.

The numbers were compiled using data on chemical releases reported to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The study found that 1.1 million pounds of pollution were released into the James river alone.

“The James river is vital to the history and culture of Richmond and Virginia,” Environment Virginia Associate Caroline Kory is quoted as saying in the release. “We shouldn’t be tarnishing our legacy with toxic pollution.”

In order to curb toxic pollution, the groups is recommending the Obama Administration clarify guidelines in the Clean Water Act so they reference all 33,778 miles of Virginia streams. Some argue a 2001 Supreme Court ruling narrowing guidelines within the Clean Water Act effectively removed protections for streams and wetlands.

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Jury says Exxon must pay \$1.5 billion for leak

Fri, Jul 1 2011

By Tom Hals

TOWSON, Maryland (Reuters) - A jury in Maryland awarded plaintiffs suing oil company Exxon Mobil about \$1.5 billion for a 2006 leak at a gasoline station, according to court documents.

Verdicts released by the Baltimore County Circuit Court on Friday showed the jury awarded the 160 plaintiffs in the case against the oil company more than \$1 billion in punitive damages.

That figure is in addition to the \$495 million in compensation that the jury awarded the plaintiffs for damage caused by the 26,000 gallons of gasoline that leaked from a pressurized line in Jacksonville, Maryland over 37 days in January and February in 2006, according to media reports.

Exxon Mobil said the company would appeal the verdict.

"As we've stated throughout the last five years, we sincerely regret this unfortunate accident. We apologize to the Jacksonville community and have devoted significant resources to clean-up, recovery and remediation activities," a spokeswoman said in an emailed statement.

The damage award is far higher than the \$900 million that Exxon Mobil paid in civil penalties for lawsuits related to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, although the company has said it spent more than \$4 billion on clean-up costs and total legal settlements.

In the Valdez case, Exxon successfully appealed a jury's original ruling that called for it to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages, and eventually had that amount cut to about \$500 million.

The Maryland case stemmed from a fuel leak that reached the groundwater in the community, which relies on private wells for drinking water.

The company has said it already had spent more than \$46 million on the spill's cleanup and been fined \$4 million by the state.

The case is the second related to the spill. The jury in the first lawsuit, which involved fewer plaintiffs, awarded \$150 million in compensatory damages. Exxon Mobil has appealed that verdict.

Shares in Exxon Mobil closed up 66 cents to \$82.04 on the New York Stock Exchange, in a broadly higher market.

(Additional reporting by Matt Daily in New York; Editing by Derek Caney)

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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

We need to develop all our energy sources, including off-shore drilling. Current technology has little impact on environment and on marine life. Fishing industry has been successful in Louisiana with abundant marine life even with off-shore drilling (not much impact from hurricanes or even the BP oil spill accident)

We should worry more about the most endangered species: HUMANS.

We need to put people first- oil drilling will create jobs and bring us closer to energy independence.
We must be energy independent for both our economic and national security

Name:

Dr. Elvira F. Hasty

Title:

Ph.D. in Chemistry

Organization:

Retired Chemistry Professor

Address:

187 Governors Rd

City, State, & Zip Code:

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jay 1pm

#9
Frank Wandy

FRANKLIN GRANT LUNDY
* I AM A SPENT 18 YEARS AS AN OFFICER IN THE USAF
* I AM AN ANATOMIST - MY WORLD IS SCIENCE
* SCIENCE OFTEN IS INCONCLUSIVE OR CONFLICTING
MOST RECENT INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMIN.
SCIENCE NOT A SOLUTION

- 1996 7 TRILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE
- TODAY OUR THE U.S. CONSUMES 20 BILLION B/P/D = ONLY ONE YEAR OF CRUDE

AS OF MARCH 2009 CRUDE IMPORTS ABRUPTLY BEGAN FALLING AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.

MEANWHILE, THE U.S. IS EXPORTING AN ALL TIME HIGH AMOUNT OF OIL IN A RANGE FROM 1.5-2 B/B/D

IF WE NEED ONE YEAR OF OIL SO BADLY, WHY ARE WE EXPORTING OIL?

LAST

AMERICAN
FUELS

AS I SPOKE WITH THE
PLANT YOUNG MAN WITH
THE ~~WHITE SHIRT~~, AN
ECON GRADUATE.

AS DISCUSSED WITH THEM,
ACCORDING TO OIL: GAS
NEWS, AN INDUSTRY WEBSITE,
THERE IS AN ~~WORK~~ INCREASING
SHORTAGE OF LABOR WITH
THE ~~PROPER~~ PROPER SKILL
SET — WE DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH QUALIFIED LABOR
NOW NOR ARE WE LIKELY
TO IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

~~THE~~ CONSEQUENTLY, FOREIGN LABOR
POOLS ARE BEING TAPPED
TO FILL THE VOID IN OUR
OIL INDUSTRY. ~~WITH~~ AS MY
YOUNG ECONOMIST CAP TOLD
ALL OF YOU, THE MARKET
WILL FIND CHEAP SUBSTITUTES —
EUROPEANS, ASIANS AND LATIN AMERICANS.



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#2 Georgia

COMMENT SHEET

Comments: Sam a resident of the Oceanfront in VB. PLEASE PRINT

I am very concerned about and very much against the proposed seismic exploration and any offshore oil drilling. Everyday I hear from friends - in the Gulf - some from Plaquemines Parish of catches of deformed shrimp without eyes, fish with bleeding lesions, huge #'s of dolphins with a "mysterious" deadly sickness no one seems willing to tie to the Oil Pusher and the tons of toxic Corexit used to disperse and hide the oil.

WERE THESE DAMAGES PREDICTED IN THE EIS FOR THE GOM DRILLING?

I've seen pictures of their children with body rashes, heard of the children's newly developed respiratory problems. I hear stories of the fishermen who went out on the clean-up who were threatened with termination if they brought their own respirators. Why?

DID BP WANT TO KEEP THE PUBLIC FROM KNOWING HOW THEY HAD POISONED THE ENVIRONMENT?

These fishermen now have respiratory problems and seizures. They have lost their livelihoods, their cultural way of life?

Is this what you have in mind for Virginia? Is this what you want for your children? They are struggling to be reimbursed

for their losses. How is it possible to reimburse people for their culture and livelihoods anyway - for the destruction of this environment?

Name: Georgia Saunders
Title: 4/24/12 7pm
Organization: HEARING
Address: _____
City, State, & Zip Code: _____

more over:

The fact is there was NO adequate clean-up plan in place for this disaster. At the June 2010 congressional hearing of the Big 5, Rep Marky of VA. It was found that Walruses were in the clean-up plan for the gulf.

WHAT HAS CHANGED? ARE THERE WALRUSES IN THE CLEAN UP PLAN for the MID ATLANTIC states?

I feel bad for my friends in the Gulf, but up until now I've always told them it will never happen in VA because we love our coastal waters too much to risk them for greedy corporate profits.

People of Virginia, please lead the way in ~~refusing~~
~~the~~ saying NO to oil drilling off Virginia

(fold here)

(fold here)

affix
postage
here

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

May 23, 2012

Dear Mr. Goeke:

My name is Ginger Taylor and I attended the public hearing you held in Wilmington, NC regarding seismic testing on the East Coast.

I do not support seismic testing off the east coast, so if I have to choose an option, it would be alternative C. However, I have reservations about even supporting that. Please consider my comments below.

I am 40 years old, a resident of NC and a licensed clinical social worker. In addition to my job, I volunteer with Wrightsville Beach Sea Turtle Project and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital.

Although I am not a mother, I try to hold true to the belief that as an adult, I too am responsible for children and the legacy that we leave behind. I believe that although BOEM did a comprehensive EIS, that the unknown of how our Oceans and it's inhabitants will be affected by seismic testing is just too great of a risk to take. I also believe in an old Cherokee saying that goes like this: *"Every action should be taken with thoughts of its effects on children seven generations from now."*

I am concerned about the health of our Oceans and all marine life, but because of my volunteer work, I know more about sea turtles than any other marine life.

When I look at the mitigation measurements you have put in place in Alternative B, it is simply not enough. Again, I DO NOT support alternative B, but if this is the option that your department chooses, please consider my concerns listed below:

1. The protection measures in B only protects along the Florida Coast of Brevard County b/c this is where the majority of loggerhead sea turtles nest. This is a problem b/c it does not protect all nesting sea turtles and all turtles are either threatened or endangered. We know that sea turtles may nest in the same region, but they are swimming all along our coast; therefore we need to protect the entire coast.
2. Recent DNA tests confirm that sea turtles do not always nest on the same beach and some of the Florida turtles may also nest in states north of Florida and vice versa. Without protection along the entire coast and ocean, you may see a drop in the Florida nests as well.
3. The sex of the sea turtle is determined by the temperature of the sand and thus more males are born in the northern states, where the sand is cooler. The male turtles are necessary to fertilize the eggs of the nesting female turtles in

Florida. Of note, the EIS reports that seismic testing is negligible on hatchlings. My thought is that we really do not have enough information to determine this risk and the risk of not understanding the consequences better is too great for all of our aquatic life.

4. At the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital, we work hard under state and federal permits to rehab these threatened and endangered creatures. This is no easy or inexpensive task. We have given much care to rehab nearly 350 sea turtles without the aid of any tax, state or federal dollars, but all on private donations. If you determine to do seismic testing and do not protect all coastal areas during nesting season, then that means that all sea turtle rehab centers in NC, SC, and GA would be releasing rehabilitated endangered and threatened sea turtles into unprotected waters. Please understand that some sea turtles may take as long as 2 -3 years to fully rehab before being released. Please do not ask any marine animal rehab center to put animals in this type of jeopardy upon release to their natural habitats. Please feel free to visit the hospital on line at www.seaturtlehospital.org.

5. While primarily loggerheads nest on our coast, we also have the occasional green, leatherback and even kemp's nest. Again, even if sea turtles do not nest on our coast, they are swimming off of our coast.

6. There is recent research that supports that sea turtles will change their behavior when air gun are deployed. (This research is included in your EIS statement) Again, I offer that not enough is known and the risk of the unknown on all of our ocean life, not just sea turtles, is just too great.

I, personally cannot support activity that would not put measures into place to protect all sea turtles, (and marine life) not just the ones nesting on the coast of Bravard County, Florida (even though they have a much higher population in Florida).

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Also, please add my name to any email list that notifies the public of any hearings or such that will be taking place regarding this important issue of seismic testing.

Any comment from you is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ginger Taylor

#4



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

The regional climate protection organization I am representing opposes drilling and any steps that lead to expanded drilling, for a few simple reasons. Drilling only prolongs and expands our dependence on fossil fuels, environmentally threatening Hampton Roads' time-honored water with oil leaks and with the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme weather events. If the administration takes the step of opening our coast to drill for any oil or gas discovered through offshore seismic testing, the entire \$23 billion coastal tourism and recreational industries would be jeopardized. Energy experts say that there is no credible link between domestic drilling and gas prices, describing it as naive to think that hitting the moratorium would have better than a negligible impact of a cent or two per gallon at the pump. High oil prices today are a global phenomenon. The global balance of supply and demand would not change ^{much} greatly. Continued dependence on fossil fuels has consequences for the climate. We are leading the dice, and painting higher numbers on them, and we should expect worse hurricanes like Isabel. The most damaging hurricane to hit the area in decades. Storm surge, winds, heavy rains and flooding killed 10 people in Virginia and caused \$1.85 billion in damages in state, and spawned a tornado in the waterfront Ocean View district of Norfolk. Oil drilling risks local livelihoods and plays to a way of thinking that keeps us addicted to greenhouse-gas intensive fossil fuels, benefitting big oil, not VA.

Name:

Hannah Wiegand

offshore would not harm our climate or causing or endanger

Title:

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

and should be developed without delay.

Organization:

Address:

1108 East Main St, Suite 603

City, State, & Zip Code:

Richmond, VA 23219

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

To DEPT of the INTERIOR

I LIVE ONE TOWN AWAY FROM SEASIDE HTS WHICH
WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF THE JERSEY SHORE IT IS THE AREA
I SPEAK OF. I WAS STUNNED TO FIND OUT ABOUT
~~THIS SEISMIC~~ THIS SEISMIC TESTING PLANNED OFF THE NJ
SHORE. WE ARE STILL SEEING THE HORRIBLE RESULTS OF THE
BP AND EXXON VALDEZ THAT STILL EXIST TODAY. PLEASE
CONSIDER ANYTHING ELSE BUT DO NOT THREATEN OUR OCEAN.
AND YOU MUST ASK YOURSELVES WHY IS IT THAT HUMANS
ARE THE ONLY CREATURES ON EARTH THAT PRAY TO GOD. AND
HUMANS ARE THE ONLY CREATURES WHO BEHAVE LIKE THEY DONT HAVE

Name: James A Hughes Thank you one
Title: STUDENT OF SCIENCE & NATURES family
Organization:
Address: 1317 Leogene Ave
City, State, & Zip Code: FORKED RIVER NJ 08731
STARMAN22461@HOTMAIL.COM

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

"If they say the sea is cold, But the sea contains
the hottest blood of all" (WHALES weep NOT - DH LAWRENCE)

14

The Need To Establish Threat Mitigation Protocols For Offshore Natural Resource Development In Waters Suspected to Contain Unexploded Munitions

April 24, 2012

By James Barton
jamesbarton@uwuxo.com

Responsible development of offshore natural resources in waters fouled with unexploded munitions can be accomplished, but only if basic threat factors are weighed at the planning stage. We have the technology and superior service providers available to conduct such operations, and given proper guidance and funding, the potential for adverse impacts of these efforts can be greatly minimized.

Background:

The eastern seaboard is littered with unexploded munitions from decades of industrial scale dumping and live fire exercises. Everything in the arsenal has been deposited off our shores. In addition to heavy iron bombs and projectiles, there are "thin cased" chemical weapons, and aluminum bodied one ton bulk containers filled with liquid agent. Residues from once liquid state agent can form a more or less solidified "shoe" at the bottom of individual munitions and bulk containers.

Threat One:

When chemical filled containers are ruptured through the use of high powered seismic technology, these "shoes" are also broken up, making them more susceptible to disbursement across the sea floor. This has already occurred in the Baltic Sea, where Solidified chunks of "blister agent" and "white phosphorous" regularly wash ashore. Beachcombers mistake these for "amber" and pocket them. Once the outer crust is brushed away, they either get a blister agent burn or their pants literally catch on fire.

The Solution:

Conduct archival research to locate the general position of major dump sites. Use more traditional and less destructive forms of wide area assessment such as magnetometer and side scan sonar to pinpoint and investigate whether chemical munitions are present. Chart these locations and avoid the use of seismic testing in these areas.

Threat Two:

Unlike large scale dump sites, individual explosive filled iron bombs and projectiles deposited through live fire exercises can migrate great distances from where they first came in contact with the sea floor. When these come in contact with man-made structures like platforms, cables or pipelines, two things are likely to occur. The first is "friction wear damage". The second is dissimilar metals in the munition and structure combine to advance electrolytic activity, which quickly overwhelms the cathodic protection originally designed for a "clean" seabed, thereby weakening the structure.

The Solution:

In the North Sea where such occurrences are common, inspection of these structures performed using ROV or AUV technologies takes place with greater frequency than in waters where unexploded munitions are not present. They also embrace remediation strategies to remove these items, and have done so successfully on numerous occasions. The costs associated with those efforts are calculated at the very beginning of the planning process.



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#5
Jane

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

The minimal amount of oil that
might be off our coast is not worth
the risk of involved in seismic drilling.
I oppose any seismic exploration because
of its potential impact on marine life,
tourism and commercial fishing.

Name:

Jane Bloodworth Ross

Title:

Organization:

Address:

608 Ocean Lakes Drive

City, State, & Zip Code:

New Beach, VA 23454

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

HAD ANY SEA CAPTAIN BEEN ASKED, I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION IN A SIMPLE, LOGICAL ANSWER AT NO COST.

SO I ASK:

① WHAT WAS THE TOTAL COST OF THIS STUDY?

② HOW MANY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WERE USED, AND WHAT COST?

Name:

LINDA ENSOR

Title:

PRESIDENT

Organization:

LOWCOUNTRY 9.12 PROJECT

Address:

310 HAMLET RD

City, State, & Zip Code:

SUMMERSVILLE, SC 29485

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Charleston 1pm



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

While public hearings and surveys are "good", it is imperative that we be energy (oil & gas esp.) independent very soon to avoid a financial colapse and avoid some security issues also.

Efficient progress needs to be made, something the gov. is not good at.

The hearings were probably boring for most lay people. Professionals such as doctors, lawyers and indian chiefs can find the meetings OK.

I wish only the best for our country.

"M"

Name: N/A
Title: (For ^{time} company of 3), CFO
Organization: service industry
Address: _____
City, State, & Zip Code: Jacksonville, Florida

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

I am UTTERLY OPPOSED
to any seismic exploration in the Atlantic

You will DESTROY the ocean & devastate
endangered whales, sea turtles, birds &
fish etc.

Option "C" is the only option

Use gas money to develop oil
alternatives & Stop funding
the Military industrial complex
at the expense of all good creations.

Name:

Marcelle Methner

Title:

Organization:

Address:

6433 Madison Street

City, State, & Zip Code:

St. Augustine, FL 32080

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

I do not consider that a "Do Nothing" policy is feasible if our country is to remain a world leader. Nor do I believe we should continue simply studying the various G & B activities & related ramifications et.c. for an indeterminate period of time.

I do believe we should approve & encourage immediate drilling in those areas where we already know there exists petroleum.

Name:

MARIA Pascacci

Title:

Retired senior citizen - Former School teacher,

Organization:

TRANS World Airlines public Relations Rep;

Address:

11430 Scott Mill Rd.

PIE Nationwide
Trucking - Sales Rep.

City, State, & Zip Code:

JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32223

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jaf 1pm



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

ALTERNATIVE A IS MY CHOICE; HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITY (DRILLING) FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS - THAT APPEARS TO BE EXTENSIVE. WHY WOULD A COMPANY INVEST RESOURCES TO DRILL IF THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO DRILL FOR 5 OF 12 MONTHS? THE COSTS MAY OUTWEIGHT THE BENEFITS SO THIS WHOLE PROCESS IS A WASTE OF TIME & MY TAXES. DID YOU INVOLVE INDUSTRY AT ALL TO SEE HOW THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MINIMIZE MAMMAL DISRUPTION? ARE THE COS. GOING TO DRILL 100 MILES OUT SO IT WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON RIGHT WHALES WHO STAY WITHIN 20 MILES OF LAND? THIS PRESENTATION SEEMED BIASED FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE. I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HEAR FROM THE DEPT OF ENERGY OR FROM AN OIL/GAS COMPANY IN ORDER TO HEAR A BALANCED PRESENTATION.

Name:

MARIA RAPUTICIL

Title:

Organization:

MT. PLEASANT 912 GROUP

Address:

~~5550~~

City, State, & Zip Code:

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Charleston 1pm

May 16, 2012

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief

Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (MS 5410)

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard

New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

Subject: Comments on the Draft PEIS for Atlantic G&G Activities

Dear Mr. Goeke:

I strenuously oppose the proposed seismic oil and gas exploration program for the Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic outer continental shelf (OCS) planning areas. The seismic activity is known to be injurious to marine wildlife and it is also the first step toward offshore drilling and potential spilling off our coasts. As a long term resident of North Carolina this proposal causes me great concern and consternation. North Carolina is especially at risk of dangers from offshore oil drilling accidents on the east coast since ocean currents from the north and the south meet immediately offshore of Cape Hatteras, meaning that spills anywhere on the east coast could gravely harm us.

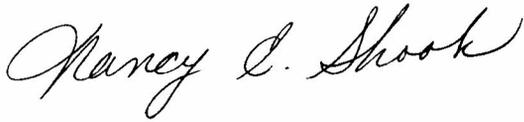
The PEIS acknowledges that seismic testing is particularly harmful to ocean dwelling mammals. Some of these mammals are endangered species. The safeguards described in the PEIS are not enough to assure the safety of these animals and there is no indication of how compliance with the proposed exclusion zones would be assured.

Seismic exploration is the first of many dangerous and polluting steps in offshore oil and gas development. For all the threats that offshore drilling imposes on our oceans and coastal

economies, there is very little reward. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, fully developing all of our recoverable offshore oil reserves everywhere would only lower pump prices by 3 cents – and would take twenty years to do so.

I urgently plead that you to choose Alternative “C” (the “no-action” alternative) which will instead focus on developing renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Shook". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nancy Shook

3748 Belfast Circle

Ormond Beach, FL 32174



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Please allow the proposed surveys to be conducted with accordance to Alternative A. It is important for our country to know what (if any) resources we have available to us. I believe Alternative A has included more than enough regulations to reduce environmental impact.

(faded text)

Name: Nicole Martz
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: 8024 Southside Blvd Apt 54
City, State, & Zip Code: Jacksonville FL 32256

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jay 1 pm



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities
in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

We need Affordable oil/Gas. please open
up for drilling and production.

Name:

Pamela Donnelly

Title:

Lead Dental Assistant

Organization:

Address:

11436 Godfrey Way

City, State, & Zip Code:

Jax 32223

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jax 1pm



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#8 Robin
Peggy

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

I'm against offshore seismic exploration
I find it sad that we continue to
stress coal, oil and gas rather than
use our creativity, ingenuity to work
in renewable energy.

Name:

Peggy Rommen

Title:

Organization:

Address:

City, State, & Zip Code:

VA. Beach, VA 23450

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

It seems to me that doing this testing must proceed asap. We need to explore our domestic energy resources or we will continue to face terrorists threats, high gas prices + high unemployment. As an environmental lawyer, I understand fully the need to protect the environment. However, 30+ years of NO is a foolish strategy. Our govt must explore here in the US - it can be done safely now.

The environmentalists need to learn to compromise. Enough is enough. If we continue to rely on foreign energy, we will cease to exist as a nation. This must go forward to protect our national security. We need jobs here in NC - 35,000 would be great.

I urge you to proceed + do the testing.

Thank you.

7/26/12

Name:

RK Amadorso

Title:

Organization:

Address:

1912 Ashbrook Dr

City, State, & Zip Code:

Wilm NC

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

wilmington, NC 1 PM



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Seismic testing is DESTRUCTIVE + KILLS
dolphins + whales + disrupts fisheries by
setting off repeated sound bombs which
blow out their eardrums. THOUSANDS of
dead dolphins have washed up on the
shores of Peru. The testing is destructive
in and of itself. Not to mention, why
test unless you plan to drill?!?

NO WAY. This will not be
accepted by the people who love the
Atlantic coast. NO TESTING.

NO DRILLING. NO WAY.

Name:

Simone Healey

Title:

Organization:

Address:

40 Dean St.

City, State, & Zip Code:

Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Please open up US oil production
we do not need to be sending our jobs
and money to the middle east.
Our Economy Depends upon cheap energy.
Tens of thousands of jobs will be
created directly and cheap energy will
open up US Manufacturing

Name: Stephen D. Charles
Title: Mech Engineer
Organization: _____
Address: 2925 Mandarin Meadows
City, State, & Zip Code: Jax, FL 32223

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jax Jmc



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

I would like to preface my comments by saying that as a concerned American, energy independence, especially independence from politically volatile countries. In general, top priority should be given to anything that will advance the agenda of energy independence. From what I have seen on the subject, Alternative A would seem to advance much-needed data on increased finding of petroleum reserves, while at the same time giving adequate consideration for concerns of animal rights activists. For the sake of the security of America, please adopt Alternative A.

Name: Steve deVida
Title: member
Organization: American Energy Forum
Address: 6716 W. 5th St.
City, State, & Zip Code: Jacksonville, FL 32254

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jan 7pm



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Public Meetings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Geological and Geophysical Activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas

COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Good Afternoon Dept. of Interior BOEM project
 I am Susan Bell a lifelong activist + member
 of Sierra Club I am here today to stand
 up for the voiceless that cannot speak
 I am against the seismic survey which
 is intended to reveal locations of oil +
 gas deposits below our beautiful VA Beach
 oceanfront I realize this is the 1st step
 towards off shore drilling which I am personally
 against The Endangered right whale which
 there are only approx. about 400 in the world
 would be effected The environmental impact
 of this would be huge on our marine life
 this would effect their breeding + learning
 + possibly their CNS which would effect
 their life as they know it
 All by the hands of man! How can you
 Harm our innocent wild life + fishing
 which would effect direct tourism in
 VA Beach this is BIG Revenue for VA Beach.

Name: Susan Bell (over)
 Title: Concerned Citizen
 Organization: Sierra Club/Activist
 Address: 312 S. Newtown Rd.
 City, State, & Zip Code: VA Beach, VA 23462

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

We cannot AFFORD Another Oil Disaster
on any of OUR Coasts!
I could not imagine the heartbreak
of the lives of the innocent the ones
without a voice the voiceless the
ones we are held accountable
by GOD. We realize something
has to be done Clean Sources are

Off
shore Wind Energy
HARMFUL Studies arent needed
FOR this ~~Just~~ The way of our
Future + our childrens +
TO SAVE our Planet
Mother Earth

(fold here)

(fold here)

affix
postage
here

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
Office of Environment (MS 5410)
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments: I have lived in Tidewater 30 years. I PLEASE PRINT

currently live in VB. I work in Chesapeake as a Mental Health Case Manager and the first word that comes to mind for me is this is Delusional. They say one definition of insanity is pursuing the same actions thinking one will get different results. I work with the BP Disaster, how can you think we want drilling for oil and gas here?

I say no to oil & gas drilling. Our ocean here? Chesapeake Bay are already not healthy - why would we take a chance to make it worse? I have read that there are only 400 Right Whales left in the world. I don't think closing parts of the coast for short periods are enough protection for them. Commercial fishing jobs (222,000) are at risk. Our 23 million dollar coastal tourism industry is at risk.

We have been supporting & SUBSIDIZING oil & Gas Corporate Powers for decades. These resources along w/ coal are finite. We are past peak oil. I am outraged at our continued corporate welfare in the area of Energy.

China is the leader in wind power. An earlier speaker noted where our ingenuity is in renewable energy - How ironic & ridiculous that we do not mobilize wind and other renewable energy.

It's time to do things a new way & build a new world.

Name:

Susan M Shaw

Title:

member

Organization:

Occupy Virginia Beach

Address:

309 Plaza Trail Ct

City, State, & Zip Code:

Virginia Beach VA 23452

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

ALTERNATIVE A is the BEST ALTERNATIVE with one change. The CALENDAR DATES FOR MANAGEMENT AREAS ARE AN ESTIMATE AND NOT ALWAYS CORRECT. BOEM SHOULD WORK WITH NOAA TO DETERMINE A SAFE SCHEDULE FOR UNDERWATER EXPLORATION BASED ON CURRENT, ACTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND MARINE MAMMAL SURVEY AND SURVEILLANCE DATA.

NOAA HAS VOLUNTARY AREAS BASED ON CURRENT SIGHTINGS OF RIGHT WHALES AS WELL AS THE SEASONAL AREAS.

WE NEED A GOOD SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR OFFSHORE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

Name:

THOMAS W. WRIGHT

Title:

Organization:

Address:

710 BRADLEY POINT RD

City, State, & Zip Code:

SAVANNAH, GA 31410

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

OPENING AND CLOSING AREAS TO EXPLORATION
SHOULD BE BASED ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONDITIONS, NOT ON CALENDAR DATES.

MARINE MAMMALS / ANIMALS MOVE BASED ON
WATER TEMPERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY
DO NOT READ CALENDARS.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE BASED ON
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND
ON SURVEILLANCE, NOT JUST CALENDAR DATES.

ALTERNATIVE A IS BEST, AS MODIFIED BASED
ON THE COMMENTS ABOVE

Name:

THOMAS W. WRIGHT

Title:

Organization:

Address:

710 BRADLEY POINT RD

City, State, & Zip Code:

SAVANNAH GA 31410

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Savannah 1pm



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COMMENT SHEET

Comments:

PLEASE PRINT

Most definitely option A - At
the worst option B. For the security
of this nation, we must have access to
OUR NATIONAL Resources! The first
step to take a country from Capitalism
to Communist is Restrict & Limit Access
to OUR NATIONAL Resources!

Name:

Victoria Baer

Title:

US Citizen

Organization:

Address:

4320 Deerwood Lake Pkwy

City, State, & Zip Code:

Oax, FL 32216

victoria@baeredge.net

Comments are not limited to the space on this sheet. Please feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

Jay 7pm



Northern
Atlantic
Right Whale
+ baby!

Mrs. Irene López
4986 Field St
San Diego
Ca 92110

Dear Director -

I'm appalled that you
want to bring the right whale closer
to extinction! With only around 400
right whales are left in the Northern
Atlantic Ocean, they have barely
survived years of hunting, and
ship strikes, pushing them to the
brink of extinction! Now these
peaceful creatures face a new
threat - cacophonous seismic testing!
they are so loud they can
literally kill ocean wildlife!
Now you want to open up the
edge of the North Atlantic right

whole causing grounds to this
unsettling testing. Disrupting their
nursery could push this species
closer to extinction / shame on
you! PLEASE stop this immediately -
it's cruel and inhumane - I
would be most grateful, and
would appreciate a kind
reply.

Sincerely
S J
[Signature]

July 18, 2012

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

I am writing to ask your help on behalf of endangered North Atlantic right whales, who congregate off the Georgia and Florida coast to give birth and take care of their babies.

Seismic testing for oil is being considered in the Atlantic, right outside whale calving grounds.

This testing includes airguns that shoot loud booms into the water every ten seconds, a sound loud enough to kill animals who are too close to the blasts.

Right whales have never fully recovered from intense hunting, and today there are only about 400 left in the Atlantic.

Baby whales are vital to the species' survival, but they are hard to come by because mothers give birth to only one calf every few years. These whales need a safe place to raise their young. Seismic testing will put mothers and babies at risk. A proposal to begin seismic testing for oil in the Atlantic, near their only known calving grounds, would mean that these animals would be exposed to loud airgun blasts day in and day out.

I urgently ask you to please save the North Atlantic right whales.

Please scrap seismic testing off the Atlantic.

Thank you for your help on behalf of our irreplaceable wildlife.

Yours truly,



J. Capozzelli
315 West 90th Street
New York, NY 10024

September 18, 2012

Dear President Obama:

I strongly oppose the harmful seismic oil and gas exploration program that is proposed for the Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic outer continental shelf (OCS) planning areas. The seismic activity is not only injurious to marine wildlife, but it is also the first step toward harmful offshore drilling and spilling off of our coasts.

The intense blasts of airgun arrays are some of the loudest underwater sounds humans make, short of explosives. This is exceedingly disruptive for all marine animals that rely on hearing to feed, mate, travel, communicate and many other behaviors necessary for survival.

Airgun noise is loud enough to mask whale calls over literally thousands of miles, destroying their capacity to communicate and breed. It can drive endangered whales to abandon their habitat and cease foraging over vast areas of ocean. Because airgun blasts can be heard under the waves for thousands of miles, dolphins cannot escape. The noise can make communication impossible - whale and dolphin babies may not hear their mothers' whistles. Repeated blasts can make life unbearable for aquatic species by disrupting their ability to feed, travel safely, and look after offspring.

Closer interactions with airguns can cause hearing loss, injury and even death for species that are already considered endangered. The South Atlantic is the only calving area for one of the most endangered whales in the world, the North Atlantic right whale, and these airguns pose serious threats to their future.

It is devastating that the Department of the Interior is proposing an expansion of this underwater testing practice along the Middle and South Atlantic, which would affect thousands of dolphins and whales. For the sake of all aquatic species that rely on sound to communicate, please do not allow this to happen.

I urgently ask you to choose Alternative "C" (the "no-action" alternative) which will keep dangerous oil and gas exploration off our coasts, and instead focus on developing renewable energy.

Thank you for your help to give marine mammals a chance to be heard.

Yours truly,



J. Capozzelli
315 West 90th Street
New York, NY 10024

COPY: Department of the Interior

Stephen Schoeman Ph.D.

POLITICAL SCIENTIST

101 JEFFERSON AVENUE
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090

TEL: 908-233-8278

March 30, 2012

sschoeman@verizon.net

Dear President Obama, Senator Lautenberg, Senator Menendez, Secretary Salazar, and Governor Christie:

The U.S. Department of the Interior has just approved seismic surveying off the Eastern Seaboard! Secretary Salazar states that there are no present plans to permit drilling for oil and gas off there but that such might be permitted should the surveying show the presence of oil and natural gas!

I am opposed to any drilling for oil and natural gas off our Eastern coast. Have we forgotten that it was not so long ago when the country sustained the worst environmental disaster because of the explosion of that deep sea well platform in the Gulf of Mexico? And even worse, the loss of life as a result?

New Jersey rightfully prides itself on having one of the finest stretches of beaches in the world. A boon to the economy of the state! And, likewise, for the other Eastern Seaboard states.

Image what an oil spill of the size of that spill in the Gulf of Mexico would do to these beaches and to the economies of these states as well as to the individual businesses along the coast! We cannot be assured that the technology for deep sea oil and gas drilling is so safe that we need not fear yet another spill! Nor the loss of another life!

I had thought, I am a Democrat, that President Obama stood for environmental protection. At least that was the message I heard in his first Presidential campaign.

Am I to conclude that this latest pronouncement from the Administration is really an attempt to counter Republican and growing public criticism of the President's energy policies which wrongfully are believed to have caused or mostly caused the great run-up in gasoline prices at the pump?

Pandering to public opinion at the expense of core values is not the mark of leadership.

Please note that I write as a stockholder in oil services and oil producing companies and so write contrary to my financial interest.

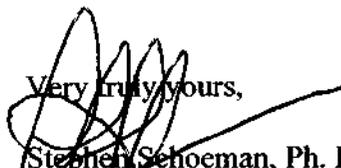
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Very truly yours,


Stephen Schoeman, Ph. D.