

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 3793

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
THE OFFSHORE DRILLING OF OIL AND GAS
AND ASSOCIATED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES
OFF THE OREGON COAST**

WHEREAS, the City of Newport is home to the largest commercial fishing fleet on the west coast; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reports that the Oregon commercial fishing industry generated an estimated \$544 million household income in 2016, which is the equivalent of approximately 10,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, sustainable commercial and recreational fishing, ocean-related tourism and recreation, and marine scientists depend on clean, oil-free water; and

WHEREAS, leasing prime fishing areas for offshore oil and gas drilling and associated exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills, and the pollution created by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization threaten the livelihoods of the commercial and recreational fisheries and the many small and large businesses that depend on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration has expressed an interest in opening the Pacific Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and associated exploration, which includes the use of seismic air guns that fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean; and

WHEREAS, seismic air gun blasting for oil and gas exploration has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales that rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species; and

WHEREAS, the Cascadia Subduction Zone runs beneath the ocean floor along the Oregon Coast, and the State of Oregon has been warned residents to prepare for a catastrophic seismic event that could happen at any time, and could unleash an unfathomable environmental disaster if oil and gas drilling is permitted offshore.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Newport finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and associated exploration unnecessarily risks the area's economic and ecological health, and opposes any plan or legislation that encourages offshore oil and gas development and associated exploration that would affect the citizens of the City of Newport, Lincoln County, and the State of Oregon.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Newport shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Oregon's federal and state legislators, and other interested parties.

Section 3. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Newport City Council on March 5, 2018.


Sandra N. Roumagoux, Mayor

ATTEST:


Margaret M. Hawker, City Recorder