



**RESOLUTION
OPPOSING THE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION
OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES OFF THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Town of Sunset Beach is a coastal community in North Carolina blessed with the natural beauty of clean beaches, salt and fresh water marshes, sounds and tributaries, and with its largest industry being related to tourism;

WHEREAS, many of these natural areas provide habitat, sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, whales, fish and other forms of wild life;

WHEREAS, the 20 counties that comprise North Carolina's coastal region generate more personal and commercial income, public revenues, and employment opportunities, than the petroleum and natural gas industry is estimated to bring into the State;

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Ocean has long been spared from the dangerous threats posed by offshore drilling and must retain these important protections;

WHEREAS, drilling in the Atlantic would expose marine wildlife, and important industries that depend on healthy oceans, to unprecedented risk, including potential harm to dolphins and whales from seismic blasting, and, once drilling begins, from inevitable oil leakage and the potential for disastrous spills;

WHEREAS, the inherent risks to our region from off-shore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm our unique natural environment, our economic well-being, and our overall quality of life, proven by considering just two massive oil spills in water contiguous to the United States, namely, the Exxon Valdez in 1989, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town of Sunset Beach is opposed to the exploration and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina and other high risk ventures that threaten the proven tourism-driven economy of coastal North Carolina.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2015

Town of Sunset Beach

BY: Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk