

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| As of: May 24, 2013 |
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| Comments Due: June 24, 2013 |
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Docket: BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Comment On: BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Document: BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0001

Comment from Kenneth Beeney, Private Citizen

Submitter Information

Name: Kenneth Beeney

Address:

5427 Evergreen Valley Dr

Kingwood, TX, 77345

Email: kbeeney@gmail.com

Organization: Private Citizen

General Comment

The marine seismic industry has been the subject of past studies on marine mammal impact and all studies find no evidence of impact, even in the extreme case of placing air guns in close proximity to an active reef. Modern surveys use efficient tuned airgun arrays that release pressured air pulses once about every 10 - 12 seconds. These arrays are towed near the surface. Deep Navy sonar pings are more deserving of a study as the source, in the case of submarines, is in closer proximity to larger marine mammals. The density of marine seismic activity is low and widely dispersed. Marine mammals and fish are much more at risk from commercial fishing and trolling net activity than from marine seismic activity. The focus of any new regulation or monitoring should be on the fishing industry.



GOMGGEIS, BOEM <gomggeis@boem.gov>

Whales and dolphins need protection please

1 message

Fiona Mccuaig <mccuaig.fiona@gmail.com>
To: "gomggeis@boem.gov" <gomggeis@boem.gov>

Thu, May 16, 2013 at 4:32 PM

We are thrilled to hear that you will be doing research on seismic testing - and the impact on cetaceans as it is a very big threat to their survival, thank you, Fiona Mccuaig, sea shepherd conservation society

Sent from my iPhone



GOMGGEIS, BOEM <gomggeis@boem.gov>

public comment on expanded seismic testing in Gulf Waters from National Geographic author

1 message

Brenda Peterson <mermaidink@comcast.net>

Sat, May 18, 2013 at 1:13 PM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

Dear BOEM, NOAA, Dept of Interior:

Please consider my *Huffington Post* article on the Navy's use of their acoustic sonar and seismic tests as a comment deeply protesting the expansion of this acoustic technology in the Gulf. Those waters are already so deeply compromised by the Horizon spill and many dolphins, and other marine mammals died. Now that Minerals Management is no longer in such a cozy relationship with the oil companies, the public expects much more rigorous scientific scrutiny of such tests. I am a National Geographic author who has written extensively about the sonar and about marine mammals and our marine ecosystems. My article below is a comprehensive look at sonar since 1995, when I first began covering this issue in *The Seattle Times* and elsewhere in my books. The world is watching this decision—as are many of us environmental journalists. History and our next generations will judge us harshly, if we continue to sacrifice our waters for short-term oil needs.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brenda-peterson/killing-with-sound_b_2744864.html

Yours,

Brenda Peterson

<http://www.BrendaPetersonBooks.com>

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Comment On: BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Document: BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0002

Comment from Joanie Steinhaus, Turtle Island Restoration Project

Submitter Information

Name: Joanie Steinhaus

Address:

34 Lebrun

Galveston, TX, 77551

Email: joanie@tirn.net

Organization: Turtle Island Restoration Project

General Comment

Most sea turtle species spend a high percentage of their lives in the upper levels (328 ft) of the water column. It is here in the near-shore continental shelf waters where foraging and nesting/breeding turtles most often occur. Sea turtles may be found in the oceanic environment not only as adults migrating between nesting and foraging habitats but also during early life stages (post-hatchlings or juveniles). Therefore, adequate consideration must be given to the potential harm seismic surveys could inflict on the marine environment. We know that different frequencies will affect different marine animals and that the lower the frequency, the farther it penetrates the ocean.

A sound wave can cause material that resonates in its frequency to shake, smash, shear, or tear. Some air spaces in mammals and fish may react to sonar in this manner.

Assessments must be based on sufficient data about how sound affects marine mammals, sea turtles, and other marine animals.

We must adequately consider the possibility that sound waves could seriously injure and even kill marine mammals, sea turtles, and other marine animals. At the same time, how will we prevent such injuries and deaths through detection of marine animals within a zone around the sound source? Visual monitoring is less effective for sea turtles due to their smaller size and low surface profile.

We must not set an arbitrary standard for the level of sound that will harass or injure marine mammals and sea turtles. In the 2012 FSEIA/SOEI, the conservative SPL threshold for injury to a sea turtle is 180 dB re 1 micor PA (rms)SPL.



GOMGGEIS, BOEM <gomggeis@boem.gov>

seismic survey vessels

1 message

Gary Guthrie <broadfire@cox.net>

Thu, Jun 13, 2013 at 10:44 AM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

I am a owner-operator of a commercial fishing vessel who fishes for yellowfin tuna in the eastern gulf of mexico. More than half the eastern gulf is closed and the seismic survey vessels are making fishing dangerous to our fishing gear dragging the gear under and crippling our ability to complete our trips with full gear. I personally have been hit several times and right now I am having to try and retrieve my expenses for sunk gear done by a survey vessel. We try to work with them because it doesn't effect there cables. The survey vessels have chase boats and help but last trip I asked them to tell the rest of the fleet to allow for the ten mile turnaround zone outside their prospect lines so others don't lose gear and end the fishing trip early.

Sincerely,

Gary Guthrie



Gulf of Mexico Geological and Geophysical Activities Programmatic Environmental Impact

1 message

WoMenHead101@att.net <WoMenHead101@att.net>

Thu, Jun 13, 2013 at 4:11 PM

Reply-To: WoMenHead101@att.net

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

I live in Pensacola, Florida. I relocated here, from Columbus, Ohio, in 2002. The beach is what motivated me to move here, without even having a job. I use to call Pensacola Beach a Hidden Treasure. And it truly was. That is until the Deepwater Horizon Disaster.

I no longer feel safe sitting on the beach, under a blazing sun, due to the oil and Corexit that is mixed in the sand. I know it's not safe for many reasons. One of which is that I, and others, have witnessed new sand trucked in and dumped onto the beach, just this past April.

I no longer feel safe swimming in the gulf, because I have seen Corexit and/or some other chemicals floating in the gulf, as well as in our bays. I have video and photos of it. Not to mention the tar mats. BP was just out on Pensacola Beach this past April, with heavy equipment digging along the shoreline, in the gulf waters.

We haven't even recovered from the largest environmental disaster in the history of the United States yet. And now we are fighting to keep offshore drilling from Florida shores. The oil and gas industry is truly getting way out of hand! And it shows all around North America. People are fighting for clean water and clean air, whether it's fracking, tar sands, or offshore drilling.

Did you know that Germany has enough solar power equivalent to forty-two nuclear power plants? They also have a plan in place to rid their selves of vehicles that run on fossil fuels. Why can't we do that in the United States? There's nothing hard about it. And it would create more jobs. Whereas an oil platform only employees approximately 102 employees.

Seismic testing kills marine mammals. We know that for a fact. We use to see dolphins when we visited the beach all the time. Now it's a rarity. And if we do see a pod, it's only a few dolphins at a time. In addition, we know that once a platform goes up, the norm to dispose of it afterwards is by blowing it up. Again, killing the wildlife and habitats that surround the platform.

Then there's the hurricanes. Did you know that Pensacola is like the second most likely spot in Florida where a hurricane will come on shore? An offshore platform is not immune to the damage a hurricane can cause. And that is a fact.

We do not need to add to the problems that already exist. And that is exactly what will happen if we allow this behavior to continue to drill in our oceans to persist. You have the power to make history and deny this activity. I beg you, please (with tears in my eyes), do not allow drilling in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Even people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are upset about this issue. We can't afford anymore accidents, no matter how small. We must defend what little we have left.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

6/17/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Gulf of Mexico Geological and Geophysical Activities Programmatic Environmental Impact

Kim A Schulz
826 S Madison Dr
Pensacola, FL 32505
850-291-0827



GOMGGEIS, BOEM <gomggeis@boem.gov>

Seismic tests hurt marine mammals-no to seismic tests

1 message

Barbara Levy <barbaraannlewy1@me.com>

Wed, Jun 19, 2013 at 7:51 PM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

Seismic tests hurt marine mammals. They navigate with sonar and seismic tests interrupt their navigation and disorient them. Do not allow this to happen. America loves its dolphins, oceans and open spaces. Please don't let these companies destroy America and all we hold dear.

Barbara Ann Levy

NY

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Comment On: BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

Document: BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0003

Comment from Kim Schulz, Defending Florida

Submitter Information

Name: Kim Schulz

Address:

826 S Madison Dr

Pensacola, FL, 32505

Email: WoMenHead101@att.net

Phone: 850-291-0827

Organization: Defending Florida

General Comment

Seismic testing kills marine mammals. We know that for a fact. We use to see dolphins when we visited the beach all the time. Now it's a rarity. And if we do see a pod, it's only a few dolphins at a time. In addition, we know that once a platform goes up, the norm to dispose of it afterwards is by blowing it up. Again, killing the wildlife and habitats that surround the platform.

Then there's the hurricanes. Did you know that Pensacola is like the second most likely spot in Florida where a hurricane will come on shore? An offshore platform is not immune to the damage a hurricane can cause. And that is a fact.

We do not need to add to the problems that already exist. And that is exactly what will happen if we allow this behavior to continue to drill in our oceans to persist. You have the power to make history and deny this activity. I beg you, please (with tears in my eyes), do not allow drilling in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Even people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are upset about this issue. We can't afford anymore accidents, no matter how small. We must defend what little we have left.



GOMGGEIS, BOEM <gomggeis@boem.gov>

I urge you to stop/ban Seismic Testing in the Gulf of Mexico NOW

1 message

Athena Creamer <heinessarts@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 21, 2013 at 11:26 AM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is allowing for public comments regarding seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico. Seismic testing is used to help determine the geological characteristics below the surface of the ground before a drill is ever started. It has even been linked to whale and dolphin strandings, disorientation in marine mammals, and fish kills. Seismic testing could also have devastating effects on our fisheries and local economies. Seismic testing was actually banned in the Atlantic ocean, until 2017. We most certainly need to ban it in the Gulf of Mexico as well. Email your comments, BEFORE JUNE 24th, to: gomggeis@boem.gov

I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ABOVE, AND URGE THE SENSIBLE BAN OF SEISMIC TESTING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. My father was a deep sea fishing party boat business owner from 1979-1999 (Her Majesty II, Emmanuel). The pressure on fisheries is already intense, and all marine life, and coasts, and the Florida economy are just now recovering from the utter devastation of the BP oil spill, which wasn't even in our State. Seismic testing is just a prelude to the evil of oil harvesting off the pristine Coast of Florida. "Florida Forever" is for all mankind. Please, NO Seismic testing. Athena Marler Creamer (Rep) 2730 State Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405.

—

Athena Marler Creamer
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GREAT DESTIN BOOKS: ([greatdestinbooks.blogspot.com](http://greatdestinbooks.blogspot.com))

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NOW AVAILABLE ON [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM)! NEW 2012 Edition. The Impressive Art of Straightening the Home, Creating a Home of Importance Where Greatness Happens, by Athena Marler Creamer. See also,

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NEW! The Help of Destin: Emma Irby, by Athena Marler Creamer.

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Model Over Miami, the Story of Betty Joan Cook.

<http://modelovermiami.blogspot.com>

A Marathon Life, How Party Fishing Began in Destin.

The Land of My Opportunity, the story of John George Maltezos.

It Happened at the Dock, by Athena and Beth Marler. (humor)

Jesus Loves You, This I Know, by Capt. Ben Marler

Rise n Shine, by Capt. Ben Marler

The French Marketing Director, by Athena Marler Creamer

<http://thefrenchmarketingdirector.blogspot.com>

BLOGS:

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF JESUS by my Dad, Capt. Ben Marler <http://captben61.blogspot.com/>

BAYVIEW RV CAMPGROUND in Destin, FL

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GOMGGEIS, BOEM &lt;gomggeis@boem.gov&gt;

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## Seismic Testing - Public Comments

1 message

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**Lauren Devine** <lrdevine@yahoo.com>

Fri, Jun 21, 2013 at 8:58 AM

Reply-To: Lauren Devine <lrdevine@yahoo.com>

To: "gomggeis@boem.gov" <gomggeis@boem.gov>

Please, NO seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Seismic testing has been linked to whale and dolphin strandings, disorientation in marine mammals, and fish kills. Seismic testing could also have devastating effects on our fisheries and local economies. Seismic testing was actually banned in the Atlantic ocean, until 2017.

We most certainly need to ban it in the Gulf of Mexico as well.

Our Gulf has been through enough. Please reconsider this, it's bad for the Gulf and bad for people and marine life.

Regards,  
Lauren Devine  
1377 Walnut Terrace  
Boca Raton, FL 33486

 please consider the environment before printing this email

6/24/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - I urge you to stop/ban Seismic Testing in the Gulf of Mexico NOW

*twitter/heiressarts*

*twitter/captben61*

Destin Zazzle Store: Athena's Gifts

<http://athenasgifts.blogspot.com>

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GOMGGEIS, BOEM &lt;gomggeis@boem.gov&gt;

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## G&G Activity/EIS meeting in Galveston TX

2 messages

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**Joanie Steinhaus** <joanie@tim.net>

Mon, Jun 24, 2013 at 3:36 PM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

I spoke at the meeting last Monday, June 17 in Galveston, TX about the possibility that sound waves could seriously injure, disrupt migration and feeding, disorient or even kill a sea turtles. I also referenced results of a study that defines critical foraging area hotspots for this species and specifically for post-nesting Kemp's ridley turtles in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Ms. Andrea Heckman was at the meeting from your New Orleans office and requested the link to the complete study.

The following is a link to the complete article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.594/full>

Thank you for your time.

Joanie Steinhaus  
Sea Turtle Restoration Project  
Galveston, TX

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**GOMGGEIS, BOEM** <gomggeis@boem.gov>

Thu, Jun 27, 2013 at 3:03 PM

To: Tre Glenn &lt;tre.glenn@boem.gov&gt;

Cc: Beth Nord &lt;beth.nord@boem.gov&gt;, Trevis Olivier &lt;trevis.olivier@boem.gov&gt;

Hi Tre!

Some information regarding a new study on Kemp Ridley turtles came from a Ms. Joanie Steinhaus I met last week at the Galveston scoping meeting for the GOM.

I thought you would be interested in this research study, if you had not already heard about it.

Thank you.

Most Sincerely,  
Andrea

[Quoted text hidden]

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0005

Comment from henri andre Fourroux III, n/a

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** henri andre Fourroux III

**Address:**

1494 Athis st

New Orleans, LA, 70122

**Email:** henri\_andre\_48@hotmail.com

**Organization:** n/a

**Government Agency Type:** Local

**Government Agency:** no government agency type: private citizen

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## General Comment

I submit for the record that I oppose any further seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico. I support the "Alternative 1 – No Action", described on page 17 of the "Scoping Meetings" document. Despite the civil settlement with BOEM, millions of Gulf creatures will be harmed by the seismic surveying and the technology used to conduct such surveying. Certain portions of the Northern Gulf of Mexico, important people's livelihoods, are showing signs of ecosystem collapse due to the BP oil disaster and can't afford any other events that will lead to the harm or death of Gulf marine creatures. We can't afford any more losses. The government must work with the people to restore the Gulf of Mexico to the state before the BP oil disaster and must not permit any more destruction to the Gulf of Mexico; any seismic activity will only aggravate a bad situation and make it worse bringing only more death to the Gulf including possibly extinction of species specific to only the Gulf of Mexico.

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0007

Comment from Darlene Eschete, Private Citizen

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Darlene Eschete

**Address:**

127 Bayou Belle St.

Bourg, LA, 70343

**Email:** darleneeschete@bellsouth.net

**Organization:** Private Citizen

---

## General Comment

I oppose any seismic testing activity to be conducted on the Gulf of Mexico continental shelf which would indeed impact sea life including mammals, fish, coral, invertebrates and protozoa in addition to upsetting the shelf itself. Every single life form is very important to the very existence of life in the Gulf of Mexico. Every living life form that has managed to survive is struggling due to the 2010 Deep-Water Horizon/BP oil disaster and other "smaller" spill events which happen daily.

Louisiana's coast already struggles with major farm, fertilizer, and pollution runoff flowing constantly down the Mississippi River and has a huge "dead zone" due to hypoxia. Need we impact this area and others with more damaging seismic "testing"? I strongly urge you to NOT allow any further harmful testing of any kind in the Gulf of Mexico. I believe she is at the end and will not survive with more damage to her already fragile ecosystem - inside and out (underwater and out in the open air).

Our most valuable resource (water) is being "killed" with not only the dumping of oil and toxic substances to disperse the oil but with studies like this one which will not give you more information than you already have. Once you finish "killing" that resource, the human population will also die. Is that what you want? Research by well-known scientists at LSU have discovered that insects no longer exist where oil has impacted the marsh off the coast of Louisiana. Need we further impact other species and continue the destruction of the food chain?

I pray that you do right by NOT allowing any more damage to our very fragile Gulf of Mexico with this impending seismic testing study.

Thank you.



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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0008

Comment from Victoria Ewy, None

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Victoria Ewy

**Address:**

590 earl gene road

Cantonment, FL, 32533

**Email:** Greesygopherguts@yahoo.com

**Organization:** None

**Government Agency Type:** Regional

**Government Agency:** Nada

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## General Comment

Our families die because of this. Your decisions impact US. We live here. So when you decide it is acceptable for our groundwater to be permanently contaminated by fracking or drilling, WE suffer. When rigs blow, WE suffer. Your experiments lead to widespread destruction of habitat. Take them somewhere else. Destroy someone else. If you like it so much, destroy your own family. We've had enough dirty energy for now.

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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0009

Comment from Mike Chenier, None

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Mike Chenier

**Address:**

545 Bertucci Street

Marrero, LA, 70072

**Email:** chenier327@gmail.com

**Phone:** 504 598 8102

**Organization:** None

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## General Comment

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 our coasts. We will never be able to drill our way to low gas prices or energy independence, so there is no justification for subjecting marine animals to the extremely damaging effects of airgun noise.

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, again over vast areas of ocean. Closer interactions with airguns can cause hearing loss, injury and death. 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.

Airguns also displace commercial species of fish as far as thousands of square kilometers away from where they are used. This has reduced catch rates of species such as cod, haddock, and rockfish across areas as large as the state of Rhode Island, leading fishermen in Norway and other parts of the world to seek industry compensation for their losses. This poses a huge threat to commercial and recreational fishing off the mid- and southeast Atlantic that (not including New Jersey) generate \$11.8 billion annually and support 222,000 jobs.

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

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Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0015

Comment from James Cook, Private citizen

---

## Submitter Information

**Name:** James Cook

**Address:**

5971 Lagniappe Drive

Pensacola, FL, 32507

**Email:** jmc.redline29@gmail.com

**Organization:** Private citizen

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## General Comment

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 our coasts. We will never be able to drill our way to low gas prices or energy independence, so there is no justification for subjecting marine animals to the extremely damaging effects of airgun noise. It is more important to consider the effects we are having on this planet than profit or comforts for humans. We are damaging ecosystems that we have little knowledge of what the ultimate effects will be, but if history is any indication, it is imperative that we immediately focus on protecting the planet vice "plundering it".

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| <b>Comments Due:</b> July 09, 2013 |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0014

Comment from Marta Badon, NA

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Marta Badon

**Address:**

5455 West End

New Orleans, LA, 70124

**Email:** nawlinsgemini@yahoo.com

**Organization:** NA

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## General Comment

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 our coasts. We will never be able to drill our way to low gas prices or energy independence, so there is no justification for subjecting marine animals to the extremely damaging effects of airgun noise.

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, again over vast areas of ocean. Closer interactions with airguns can cause hearing loss, injury and death. 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.

Airguns also displace commercial species of fish as far as thousands of square kilometers away from where they are used. This has reduced catch rates of species such as cod, haddock, and rockfish across areas as large as the state of Rhode Island, leading fishermen in Norway and other parts of the world to seek industry compensation for their losses. This poses a huge threat to commercial and recreational fishing off the mid- and southeast Atlantic that (not including New Jersey) generate \$11.8 billion annually and support 222,000 jobs.

Seismic exploration is the first of many dangerous and polluting steps in offshore oil and gas development. For all the threats that offshore drilling im

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>Received:</b> June 30, 2013     |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0013

Comment from Paula Cash, None

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Paula Cash

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656 Willow Pointe Dr.

Mobile, AL, 36695

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**Organization:** None

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## General Comment

We've already been polluted with crude and corexit. NOW you wanna explode all over the Gulf. Yeah, right!!!! Let's just kill off all the living creatures polluted by crude and corexit. Is this how you solve problems? HELL NO!!! Instead of killing what will kill the human race, take actions to clean up the crap left by big corporations and leave what still hanging on in the Gulf alone!

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>As of:</b> July 01, 2013        |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0012

Comment from jack slattery, none

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** jack slattery

**Address:**

128 blu corl dr  
srb, FL, 32459

**Email:** jdslat@embarqmail.com

**Organization:** none

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## General Comment

The ecosystem of the gulf has suffered extensive damage due to the oil industry. The marine life has not recovered, and maybe never will, because you will not stop these destructive practices.

tourism is the economic lifeblood of our area, you will eventually kill it!

Watermen and the tourists have the right to swim in water that is not polluted.

I oppose any expansion of the destructive oil industry testing or otherwise. They cannot be trusted. they conduct war against all life for profit!

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>As of:</b> July 01, 2013        |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0011

Comment from Anna Garleff, AIM Developing Human Potential

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Anna Garleff

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3813 15 St SW

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2T4A7

**Email:** annagarleff@gmail.com

**Organization:** AIM Developing Human Potential

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## General Comment

By this stage of human development in general and scientific development in particular, it should be apparent that life systems are intertwined and that what happens in the Gulf matters to people living all over the world. Your decisions affect us all. Moreover, your decisions affect sentient beings who have no voice. We are stewards of the land, air water, flora and fauna.

I am speaking on behalf of those who value all forms of life above profit. As such, 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.

Airgun blasts are some of the loudest sounds humans make - loud enough to mask whale calls over literally thousands of miles, destroying their capacity to communicate and breed. What gives us the right? Airguns also displace commercial species of fish as far as thousands of square kilometers away from where they are used. Who will pay the compensation fishers will demand .... and again ... what right do we as a species have to drive another species out of its rightful home?

Seismic exploration must be seen in context as just the first step of a highly dangerous and polluting process which carries little reward. Even if we were to develop all recoverable offshore oil reserves everywhere - it would only lower pump prices by 3 cents – and would take twenty years to do so.

Please 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.

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>As of:</b> July 01, 2013        |
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| <b>Tracking No.</b> 1jx-8674-rfqv  |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0010

Comment from Erica Bruckner, Concerned Citizen

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Erica Bruckner

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PO Box 547

Port Saint Joe, FL, 32457

**Email:** ebruck30@aol.com

**Organization:** Concerned Citizen

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## General Comment

I strongly oppose the expansion of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and the use of dangerous seismic testing. This type of testing can harm the wildlife that live in these waters. I believe enough harm has already been done!



# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>Tracking No.</b> 1jx-867t-kyj8  |
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| <b>Submission Type:</b> Web        |

**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0018

Comment from victoria clarkin, None

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** victoria clarkin

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P.O.Box 702

Gulf Breeze, FL, 32562

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**Organization:** None

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## General Comment

Absolutely do NOT allow this it is harmful to gulf habitat !

## Comments on Scoping for the Gulf of Mexico G&G PEIS

From: Elizabeth Cook  
713 Fairlawn Dr.  
Gretna, La 70056

I am requesting an extension of this comment period, based on the settlement of this civil action: CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:10-cv-01882. This settlement was announced just two days after the public hearing in Jefferson Parish at BOEM on June 19th. Here is a link to the GRN announcement on June 21st:

<https://healthygulf.org/201306212080/media/press-releases/landmark-agreement-to-protect-gulf-of-mexico-whales-dolphins-from-industrys-high-intensity-airgun-surveys>

The potential settlement was mentioned in this document we were handed at the BOEM hearing on June 19th, but no mention that there was indeed a settlement already agreed upon and no mention of the details: the document we were handed is named "Project Information Sheet":

On page 3 is the following statement: "In 2010, following the events of the Deepwater Horizon explosion, oil spill, and cleanup, the NRDC and other environmental NGOs filed suit against the U.S. Dept. of the Interior alleging BOEM violated NEPA when issuing authorizations for seismic surveys in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2011, representatives of the oil and gas industry, as well as representatives of the geophysical contracting industry, joined the lawsuit as Intervenor-Defendants. Conditions agreed to by the parties and outlined in the final settlement agreement will be assessed in this Programmatic EIS."

This announcement coming so late in the Scoping Meetings and Comment Period process, hardly gives the public the time to review the civil settlement and its potential impact on the Environmental Impact Statement and ultimate decision made whether or not to move forward with seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

We were also handed another BOEM document titled "Scoping Meetings". Within this document, on Page 6, is an outline of the full process of Environmental Impact Statements, including the second step, which is "Scoping, Public Comment and Meetings".

I contacted Mr. Gary D. Goeke, at 504-736-3233, as he is listed on the document we were handed at the hearing on the 19th, the "Project Information Sheet", as the contact person for any further questions. He admitted that this settlement will impact the EIS. If



that is so, then as part of the scoping meetings, which are regarding the question of whether or not to move forward with seismic surveying in the Gulf of Mexico, or “G&G Activities”, and since this settlement directly pertains to the conducting of seismic surveying, we the public should have had a right to review and comment on this information, within these scoping meetings. Therefore, I request an extension of the comment period at this stage.

I would also like to go on record that I oppose any further seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico. I speak to this issue in support of the “Alternative 1 – No Action”, described on page 17 of the “Scoping Meetings” document. Despite the civil settlement with BOEM, millions of Gulf creatures will be harmed by the seismic surveying and the technology used to conduct such surveying. Certain portions of the Northern Gulf of Mexico is showing signs of ecosystem collapse due to the BP oil disaster, and can't afford any other events that will lead to the harm or death of Gulf marine creatures. We can't afford any more losses.

In addition, one of the ultimate goals of seismic surveying in the Gulf of Mexico, as stated in the “Scoping Meetings” document handed us at the public hearing on June 19th, is “Oil and Gas Exploration”, described on page 10. I oppose any further expansion of oil and gas exploration, and in fact, it is my belief that due to the risks of the health of our environment and the health of the people, all deepwater and shallow water drilling should be shut down as soon as possible. We're losing our coastline here in Louisiana partly due to the activities of the oil and gas industry. Now we have the damages of the BP oil and Corexit to contend with. LSU Professor, Dr. Linda Bui, filed a study recently that showed insects are dying and not returning to oiled marshes, and that certain compounds associated with oil are increasing in toxicity(link to her study below). In my opinion, this is due in no small measure to the unprecedented use of the toxic dispersant Corexit that is still approved for use in the event of another oil disaster on the Gulf. The use of Corexit potentially made the oil 52 times more toxic, as per the study linked to below. In addition, possibly tens of thousands of people have been exposed to the oil made more toxic with the use of Corexit. For some of these people, their health has been impacted severely. The health effects have been acknowledged in the plaintiff's settlement with BP, although it is currently under appeal. I support the rapid development and transition to clean energy technology, with a sense of urgency that this issue is due.

Link to article on Dr. Bui's study:

<http://theadvocate.com/home/5782947-125/buzzing-of-insects-falls-silent>

Link to study that showed Corexit potentially makes oil 52 times more toxic:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749112004344>

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-DRAFT-0017

Comment from Jacquee Markel, South Walton Community County

## Submitter Information

**Name:** Jacquee Markel

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**Email:** jjwinart@mchsi.com

**Organization:** South Walton Community County

**Government Agency Type:** Local

## General Comment

I respectfully submit my objection to: >>Lease blocks off the West Florida Escarpment - Currently this area is doing seismic testing. The leases are good through May 31, 2018. "The Settlement between NRDC, et al vs. Salazar (Dept. of Interior) regarding the 30-month seismic moratorium exempts all currently leased blocks in Desoto Canyon and MS Canyon. There will be ongoing seismic activity even after the Settlement is signed by the Judge."

>>BOEM Lease Blocks Approved or Proposed for Drilling near Florida

DC4 Murphy completion spring 2013

DC47 Murphy completion well spring 2013

DC48 Murphy completion well spring 2013

DC134 Murphy 08/17/12 Active

DC490 Anadarko 01/31/13

DC491 Anadarko 01/13/13

DC529 Shell 01/01/13

DC535 Anadarko 01/31/13

DC726 BHP Billiton 2/2013

DC757 Marathon 03/01/13

DC799 Shell 10/01/12

DC843 Shell 10/01/12

LL621 Anadarko 04/01/13

Sea Turtles>"Oil spills: Chronic oil spills, mid-size oil spills, and massive oil spills. The 2007 Oil BiOp

estimates 9 lethal Kemp's ridley takes from 40 years of oil activity, an estimate invalidated by the BP spill of 2010. Oil spill jeopardize sea turtles."

"Toxic discharges: Chemicals and chemical oil dispersants released from oil rigs and associated infrastructure, vessels, helicopters and ports jeopardize the health and survival of juvenile sea turtles." "Noise from seismic testing: Chronic low frequency noise causes harassment and alteration of normal sea turtle feeding, migration, and breeding behavior."

"Water pollution: heavy metals release during construction and on-going operations combined with debris, pathogens and other toxic chemicals impacts sea turtle health and habitat quality."

Tourism&Fishing>Living in a community that depends on tourism & fishing to sustain our economy, the thought of new drilling is chilling. The economic hit that our community experienced after the 2010 BP Disaster was devastating. The lack of oversight on the various oil companies was shocking. What has really changed?

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>Comments Due:</b> July 09, 2013 |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-0022

Comment from Lawrence Dunn, Citizen

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## Submitter Information

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New Orleans, LA, 70121

**Email:** me@LawrenceDunn.com

**Phone:** 5042984834

**Organization:** Citizen

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## General Comment

We pay and pay and pay in every way a drastic price in terms of money and ecological treasure, yet we get nothing in return, not even the low prices we were promised. Of course, we were also promised that these modern wells would never leak even though every well that has ever been drilled leaks to some extent even after being capped. Nothing the wealthy class claims is true. Reaganomics has been in effect for 30 years with low taxes and less regulations, but the jobs they promised have not materialized. Being sociopathic liars is how the wealthy got that way. Needing to kill the gulf to save the economy is just another huge lie!

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>Comments Due:</b> July 09, 2013 |
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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-0021

Comment from Terri Holley , N/A

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Terri Holley

**Address:**

6101 College Parkway

1B

Pensacola, FL, 32504

**Email:** balentineth@gmail.com

**Organization:** N/A

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## General Comment

As a concerned citizen and resident of the gulf coast of Florida, I would like to submit my opposition to the proposed seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

The delicate balance of nature in our oceans has already been irreparably damaged by our quest for oil and other "dirty" fuels. As a witness to the Gulf Oil Spill, I saw hundreds of marine animals die as a result of the oil and the poison used to sink it. The health of our oceans and their inhabitants are essential components to the health of our entire planet. Are you aware that the phytoplankton in our oceans produce the majority of the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere? Or that Phytoplankton created the oil in the first place? According to modern scientists, crude oil and natural gas are remnants of the photosynthetic products of ancient algae, i.e. phytoplankton. Environmental scientists have been searching for years for ways to grow phytoplankton and fast pace the millions of years process it goes through to become oil to create a clean, cheap biofuel. The production process proposed would actually decrease the levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere. See <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=34239> for more information.

Clearly the proposed tests are preliminary to further drilling. Are we so shortsighted as to continue to allow our planet to be brutalized in this way when so many of our world neighbors have proven that clean energy alternatives are more than viable? Our planet is not renewable nor is it a commodity, for sale to the highest bidder. It is our home. The eyes of America and the world are on you. I trust you will make the right decision for the people and the planet we all inhabit.

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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| <b>Posted:</b> July 09, 2013       |
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| <b>Comments Due:</b> July 09, 2013 |
| <b>Submission Type:</b> Web        |

**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001

Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-0023

Comment from Kelly Anderson, Concerned Citizen

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Kelly Anderson

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Santa Rosa Beach, FL, 32459

**Email:** Kelly@AndersonSolutions.com

**Organization:** Concerned Citizen

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## General Comment

Please choose Alternative 1 – No Action!

As a resident of Walton County Florida, I am adamantly opposed to Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico. As a Federal Agency, there is no logical reason why BOEM would have any jurisdiction or interest in conducting seismic surveys in Florida's state waters.

The Gulf of Mexico was irreparably damaged as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and any seismic surveying in this area will further compromise the area's marine wildlife and environment. Seismic surveys have been shown to cause hearing loss in marine mammals, disturb essential behaviors such as feeding and breeding over vast distances, mask communications between individual whales and dolphins, and cause catch rates of commercial fish to plummet. According to estimates in a 2000 study by the University of West Florida's Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development, Destin's charter fishing industry injects approximately \$175 million in direct spending to the local economy and supports 7,242 jobs either directly or indirectly. These numbers represent a significant portion of Florida's \$5.5 billion fishing industry and the 75,000 jobs statewide that the industry supports. As a resident of Walton County Florida, I am adamantly opposed to any activity that will contribute to declining fishing harvests.

In addition, these seismic surveys are the first step in the government's plans to sell additional oil & gas



leases. Drilling in state or federal waters off the coast of Florida makes no economic sense. We will never be able to drill our way to low gas prices or energy independence, so why put Florida's \$65 billion tourism industry at risk? The Deepwater Horizon disaster came very close to permanently ruining our local economy, and I am adamantly opposed to any effort that will increase the number of oil and gas leases near Florida's beautiful coastline.

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** BOEM-2013-0034  
Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Comment On:** BOEM-2013-0034-0001  
Outer Continental Shelf Geological and Geophysical Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**Document:** BOEM-2013-0034-0024  
Comment from Trisha James, Too Many to Mention

## Submitter Information

**Name:** Trisha James  
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 7491 White Sands Blvd.  
 Navarre, FL, 32566  
**Email:** tjatnb@gmail.com  
**Organization:** Too Many to Mention

## General Comment

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. These disturbances can disrupt and displace important migratory patterns. Regulations to limit Seismic testing are poor.

The Interior Department's recent report - Survey of Available Data on OCS Resources and Identification of Data Gaps - acknowledges the serious impacts that anthropogenic sound - including the intense sound generated from seismic surveys - can have on marine mammals and fish.

In December 2004, Science Magazine reported on the findings of a research team at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The team, led by Michael J. Moore and Greg A. Early, have been inspecting bones from a collection of sperm whales.

They noticed that many of the bones contained lesions and pits, indicating the whales may have suffered mild, but chronic, decompression sickness over the course of their lives. From November 28, 2004 to January 7, 2005, there have been recorded incidents of around 200 whale beachings on the coasts of the island of Tasmania, 240 km off the south-eastern coast of the Australian continent. This is an unprecedented number and has caused widespread concern.

On November 30, 2004, Australian Senator and Green Party Leader, Bob Brown, made a statement saying that ocean seismic tests to search for gas and oil should be stopped. His call followed the deaths of 19 long-finned pilot whales which beached at Tasmania's Maria Island the previous day. Just 24 hours earlier, 73 long-finned pilot whales and 25 bottlenose dolphins had been beached and had died.

Please stop the seismic testing.



GOMGGEIS, BOEM &lt;gomggeis@boem.gov&gt;

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**re: Scoping Comments for the Gulf of Mexico G&G Programmatic EIS**

1 message

**elizabeth cook** <yocandra42@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 8, 2013 at 9:09 AM

To: "gomggeis@boem.gov" &lt;gomggeis@boem.gov&gt;

Cc: "tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov" &lt;tommy.beaudreau@boem.gov&gt;, "walter.cruickshank@boem.gov" &lt;walter.cruickshank@boem.gov&gt;

Elizabeth Cook  
713 Fairlawn Dr.  
Gretna, La. 70056

My amended comments on Scoping for the Gulf of Mexico G&G PEIS

Due to the fact that CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:10-cv-01882 was settled at least two days, according to BOEM staff, specifically, Mr. Gary Goeke, after the June 19th hearing in Jefferson Parish, and due to the fact that the settlement exempts certain areas of the gulf, namely:

Page 14 of the Settlement Agreement: V.D.2.

2. The restriction set forth in paragraph V.D.1 shall not apply to Deep Penetration Seismic Surveys of: (a) any currently leased blocks; (b) any portion of the geographic area encompassed by the originally proposed Lease Sale 224 demarcated on Exhibit 5; or (c) with respect to the surveying of Neighboring Blocks being surveyed in order to achieve full subsurface imaging of areas in either the Central Planning Area, the portions of the Eastern Planning Area that are outside Plaintiffs' Areas of Concern, any currently leased blocks, or the geographic area within the originally proposed Lease Sale 224. Neighboring Blocks shall consist of the two lease blocks adjacent in any direction to the area being imaged.

<http://www.iagc.org/files/4267/>

And that these areas are leased areas in significant sections of De Soto Canyon, the Mississippi Canyon as well as leased blocks off the Florida Escarpment. And that we the public have the right to a decent and significant amount of time to review this information and respond to it. Given that the announcement of the settlement came officially on June 21st, and given the comment period ended on July 9th, this leaves only 19 days to comment on a settlement that provides the government significant rights to continue to allow seismic testing in those areas mentioned above, despite the ongoing BOEM process of developing an environmental impact statement as to the effects of seismic testing on marine life in the Gulf of Mexico.

And due to the fact that this civil settlement involves seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico, and the amendment of the process of seismic testing, giving the public little notice or opportunity to comment on it in relation to the ongoing BOEM Scoping for the Gulf of Mexico G&G PEIS, this further lends weight to the need for an extended period of commentary from the public in response to this settlement and the changes made to the process of seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, when I commented on June 19th, in the public hearing in Jefferson Parish, I attempted to speak to the effects of oil and gas production on the state of Louisiana due to the BP oil disaster. Since one of the goals, as stated in your literature handouts, is to begin this process for the ultimate goal of oil and gas drilling, I felt it appropriate to address the harm that has happened to our state and the Gulf in general due to the BP disaster. However, as I spoke, I was interrupted several times by Mr. Gary Goeke, who attempted to limit my comments to

the seismic testing only, even though it was clearly stated in BOEM literature the ultimate goals of the seismic testing is expansion of oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. I found his behavior to be a deliberate attempt at intimidation to shut down my comments as to the harmful effects of the BP disaster on the people of the Gulf coast. In addition, I suspect that if I were treated that way, then there have probably been other members of the public in other states where these BOEM public hearings have been held that have been treated in the same manner by Mr. Goeke. In addition, as I had reason to have several phone calls with Mr. Goeke to inquire about this process, and I attempted several times to bring up my concerns for the people of the Gulf in the wake of the BP oil disaster, I was interrupted and literally hung up on at least twice.

As Mr. Goeke is representing BOEM in this matter, it appears clear that BOEM is not concerned or interested in the thoughts of the people of the Gulf coast on the harm that the BP oil disaster has caused to our culture, environment, health of our people and our way of life, and if that is the case, then this entire process is illegitimate in my view. At one point, on the phone, when I attempted to speak to the issue of the damages and health issues caused by the BP oil disaster, Mr. Goeke said BOEM is staffed with "80 environmentalists", as though BOEM's environmentalists know the truth as to what has happened to Gulf states as a result of the BP oil disaster. If that is the case, why hold public meetings at all, if the point is not to gather public comment as to what we the people of the Gulf coast have experienced during the BP oil disaster, and relate those thoughts in response to obvious plans to expand offshore drilling? Particularly as the Federal government continues to rely on the toxic dispersant Corexit as a major response to oil spills?

I am calling on BOEM to not only extend the comment period reasonably, so that ongoing commentary may take place as to the settlement of Civil Action No. 2:10-cv-01882 as the information is digested by the public, and the public is able to comment on this settlement. I am also calling for the removal of Mr. Gary Goeke as manager of this commentary process, due to his insensitivity and arrogance to the people of the Gulf coast. We have suffered greatly here and lost much, and for a Federal staff member to exhibit such arrogance and lack of interest and consideration in our viewpoint goes counter to what a public process should be about. BOEM works for the people of this country, not for industry, but this has not been apparent in many years.

Elizabeth Cook  
July 7th, 2013

Here is a link to the GRN announcement of the settlement on June 21st: <https://healthygulf.org/201306212080/media/press-releases/landmark-agreement-to-protect-gulf-of-mexico-whales-dolphins-from-industrys-high-intensity-airgun-surveys>

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 **my amended comment to BOEM.odt**  
27K

Elizabeth Cook  
713 Fairlawn Dr.  
Gretna, La. 70056

My amended comments on Scoping for the Gulf of Mexico G&G  
PEIS

Due to the fact that CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:10-cv-01882 was settled at least two days, according to BOEM staff, specifically, Mr. Gary Goeke, after the June 19th hearing in Jefferson Parish, and due to the fact that the settlement exempts certain areas of the gulf, namely:

Page 14 of the Settlement Agreement: V.D.2.

2. The restriction set forth in paragraph V.D.1 shall not apply to Deep Penetration Seismic Surveys of: (a) any currently leased blocks; (b) any portion of the geographic area encompassed by the originally proposed Lease Sale 224 demarcated on Exhibit 5; or (c) with respect to the surveying of Neighboring Blocks being surveyed in order to achieve full subsurface imaging of areas in either the Central Planning Area, the portions of the Eastern Planning Area that are outside Plaintiffs' Areas of Concern, any currently leased blocks, or the geographic area within the originally proposed Lease Sale 224. Neighboring Blocks shall consist of the two lease blocks adjacent in any direction to the area being imaged.

<http://www.iagc.org/files/4267/>

And that these areas are leased areas in significant sections of De Soto Canyon, the Mississippi Canyon as well as leased blocks off the Florida Escarpment. And that we the public have the right to a decent and significant amount of time to review this information and respond to it. Given that the announcement of the settlement came officially on June 21st, and given the comment period ended on July 9th, this leaves only 19 days to comment on a settlement that provides the government significant rights to continue to allow seismic testing in those areas

mentioned above, despite the ongoing BOEM process of developing an environmental impact statement as to the effects of seismic testing on marine life in the Gulf of Mexico.

And due to the fact that this civil settlement involves seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico, and the amendment of the process of seismic testing, giving the public little notice or opportunity to comment on it in relation to the ongoing BOEM Scoping for the Gulf of Mexico G&G PEIS, this further lends weight to the need for an extended period of commentary from the public in response to this settlement and the changes made to the process of seismic testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, when I commented on June 19th, in the public hearing in Jefferson Parish, I attempted to speak to the effects of oil and gas production on the state of Louisiana due to the BP oil disaster. Since one of the goals, as stated in your literature handouts, is to begin this process for the ultimate goal of oil and gas drilling, I felt it appropriate to address the harm that has happened to our state and the Gulf in general due to the BP disaster. However, as I spoke, I was interrupted several times by Mr. Gary Goeke, who attempted to limit my comments to the seismic testing only, even though it was clearly stated in BOEM literature the ultimate goals of the seismic testing is expansion of oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. I found his behavior to be a deliberate attempt at intimidation to shut down my comments as to the harmful effects of the BP disaster on the people of the Gulf coast. In addition, I suspect that if I were treated that way, then there have probably been other members of the public in other states where these BOEM public hearings have been held that have been treated in the same manner by Mr. Goeke. In addition, as I had reason to have several phone calls with Mr. Goeke to inquire about this process, and I attempted several times to bring up my concerns for the people of the Gulf in the wake of the BP oil disaster, I was interrupted and literally hung up on at least twice.

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I am calling on BOEM to not only extend the comment period reasonably, so that ongoing commentary may take place as to the settlement of Civil Action No. 2:10-cv-01882 as the information is digested by the public, and the public is able to comment on this settlement. I am also calling for the removal of Mr. Gary Goeke as manager of this commentary process, due to his insensitivity and arrogance to the people of the Gulf coast. We have suffered greatly here and lost much, and for a Federal staff member to exhibit such arrogance and lack of interest and consideration in our viewpoint goes counter to what a public process should be about. BOEM works for the people of this country, not for industry, but this has not been apparent in many years.

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GOMGGEIS, BOEM &lt;gomggeis@boem.gov&gt;

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## Scoping

1 message

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**Les Simon** <lessimon@tds.net>

Tue, Jul 9, 2013 at 8:28 PM

To: gomggeis@boem.gov

Tommy P. Beaudreau  
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Dear Tommy P. Beaudreau,

So many atrocities have already crippled the Gulf of Mexico. It seems a shame to allow more. Please cease and desist from further planning of multiple geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in OCS waters of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).

As a former resident of the Gulf Coast, I thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Les Simon  
Maine