

For Immediate Release
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Though the weather is not very beachy for many, the future of the Atlantic Coast is on the line inspiring national ocean champions, US Senator Menendez, US Senator Booker, and Congressman Pallone, to hold a rally to oppose plans for offshore drilling. The Obama Administration's 5-year oil and gas lease plan will soon be released and could include opening up the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas drilling for the first time in over 30 years.

"The ocean is key to ecological and economic health and it provides a bounty of resources 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. In return, we must be willing to defend our shores 24/7. This is an important event for citizens to rally for the ocean," **said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action.** "Please make the time and come to Asbury Park on Sunday to help protect the future of the Jersey Shore," **she added.**

US Senator Menendez, US Senator Booker, and Congressman Pallone are holding an event on the Boardwalk in Asbury Park this Sunday, Jan 31st at 1:30pm. They will be rallying citizens to support their efforts to urge the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to remove the Atlantic Ocean from the proposed 2017-2022 Oil and Gas Leasing Program. This program is under the Outer Continental Lands Act, which allows federal management of offshore energy and mineral resources.

The proposed area for consideration is from Cape May, NJ, to Cumberland Island, GA. Oil spills and pollution anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean will be impossible to contain. Ocean currents, such as the Gulf Stream, and winds will spread pollution for miles and will contaminate the Jersey Shore.

For more information on the impacts from oil exploration and drilling:
http://cleanoceanaction.org/fileadmin/editor_group2/General/Public_Relations/Press_Releases_2014/Oil_Trifold_Final_January_2016.pdf

For more information on the federal process of the Oil and Gas Leasing Program:

<http://www.boem.gov/Five-Year-Program-2017-2022/>

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