Exploring for oil and gas can blow out your ears…if you're a whale, dolphin or fish!

Seismic airgun blasting is a practice used by the oil and gas industries to locate deposits deep beneath the seafloor. The practice consists of blasting extremely loud (250 decibels) rapid fire pulses into the water column to penetrate miles into the seabed. The blasting can continue for weeks on end.

Seismic airgun blasting creates one of the loudest sounds in the ocean, and the intensity of the sound has proven to disturb, injure and even kill marine life.

The loud blasting also masks social communications used to find mates, food, or identify predators. The long-term noise can interfere with marine mammals nursing, family groups, and migration patterns.

It can also cause habitat abandonment which has adversely affected recreation and commercial fishing activities and income.

What happens on the rig doesn't stay on the rig – pollution goes with the flow.

Since the ocean has no boundaries or barriers, oil spills and pollution are impossible to contain. Wind and currents, such as the Gulf Stream, will spread pollution for miles. Recall - a "mystery" offshore oil spill in 2004 spoiled 40 miles of NJ beaches and killed countless shore birds.

Routine releases of 'produced waters' and smaller spills from drilling rigs contaminate the ocean with a chemical cocktail of petroleum, heavy metals, and toxic organics.

Air pollution is caused from common releases of air pollutants from drilling and from vessels for exploration, support, and transportation. These pollutants include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, VOCs, and particulate matter.

Fossil Fuels not Worth the Risk

Based on government estimates, if all the economically recoverable offshore oil and gas in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) were extracted and used, oil demand would only be met for 132 days and gas demand would only be met for 283 days, at current consumption rates.

Drilling in the Atlantic **WILL NOT** affect gasoline prices.

NJ's famous shore has been marred in the past. The summers of 1987 and 1988 saw medical waste and raw garbage washing-up along the coast. Tourism dropped off significantly and in 1987 $1.8 billion in revenue was lost. An oil spill off the NJ's coast could trigger an even more dramatic decline for tourism and the economy.

Consequences of Fossil Fuels

In response to the "Drill-Baby-Drill" campaign driven by the oil and gas industry, President Obama supported an "all of the above" plan for energy. This resulted in the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management including the Atlantic Ocean in the proposed 2017-2022 Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The region includes the ocean realm from Cape May, NJ, to Cumberland Island, GA. At the same time, the Obama Administration is calling for a global response to Climate Change, of which the most significant cause is the burning of fossil fuels. The hypocrisy is clear.

The consequences of burning fossil fuels is over-heating the planet, causing ocean warming and acidification, and making air quality unfit for people. Many animals and plants are at grave risk, edging the planet to becoming unsuitable for a healthy quality of life in the future.

Toxic Legacy and Broken Lives from Drilling

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico caused unprecedented environmental and economic damage. Over 200 million gallons of oil spewed into the Gulf, becoming the largest oil spill ever recorded in history, affecting 16,000 total miles of coastline and resulting in untold damage to the gulf ecosystem. Over 6 years later, oil is still washing up on the Gulf's shores and species are still affected, including fish, oysters, crab, and mammals.

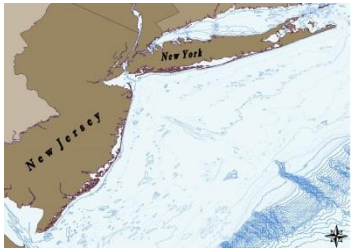
Oil from the infamous Exxon Valdez spill is still polluting Alaskan beaches and continues to be toxic to marine life, over 25 years later. The communities that depended on the natural bounty of the Prince William Sound have not fully recovered, after years of court battles.

The Ocean is a Risky Place for Drilling Rigs

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 destroyed 113 oil platforms, damaged 52, ripped 19 from their bases, and over 600 pipelines were damaged. Over 9 million gallons of petroleum products spilled from 11 major and moderate spills and even more escaped from 5,000 minor spills.

New Jersey/New York Clean Ocean Zone

The New York and New Jersey Bight, is unique and supports more than 300 species of fish, nearly 350



species of birds, 5 species of sea turtles, and many marine mammals, with over 20 species of whales and dolphins, 1 species of porpoise, and 4 species of seals. In fact, "the NY/NJ Bight has one of the highest diversities of marine mammals and sea turtles reported anywhere in the United States and supports many threatened and endangered species," (USFWS 1997). It is a most sensitive and economically essential marine habitat.

Recreational & Commercial Fishing: According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, the New Jersey fishing industry contributes an estimated $4.5 billion annually to the economy from commercial fisheries, aquaculture, and recreational fishing. In 2012, the seafood industry generated 50,754 jobs in New Jersey.

Tourism: Tourism demand grew 3.8% in 2014 to reach $42.1 billion. In 2014, the tourism industry directly supported 315,952 jobs in New Jersey and sustained nearly 508,000 indirect jobs. The industry accounts for almost 10% of total employment.

Air: Ocean phytoplankton, tiny photosynthesizing sea life, produces half the oxygen in the atmosphere.

Natural Value: According to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the *natural value* of beaches provides the highest value per acre of any other habitat by far, with an eco-service value of $330 million per year (2007 $).

Every other breath we take is thanks to the ocean — 50% of the planet's oxygen is produced by ocean phytoplankton.

Climate change and ocean acidification, caused by excessive carbon dioxide, is putting ocean life at risk.

Our energy use is a major threat to our ocean. Our nation must make swift and green choices to tackle one of the biggest issues of our time.

Support a Clean Green Energy Future

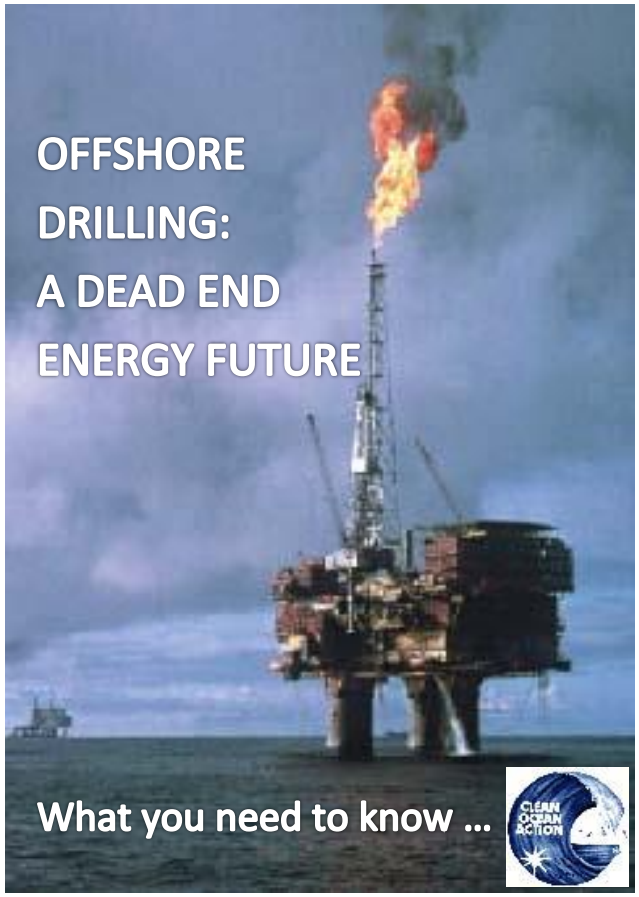
Energy Efficiency and Conservation combined with renewable energy sources are the <u>Solutions.</u>

"Drill down" for energy at home, the office, and in your car. Get serious about implementing basic cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation measures, which will also save money. NJ could save the equivalent energy produced by 8-12 mid-size power plants (KEMA Report) by 2020. For rebates and programs go to NJCleanEnergy.com.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: Energy efficiency measures and renewables create American high quality long term jobs. Studies for New Jersey's Energy Master Plan projected that 6,026 permanent jobs will be created from 2010 to 2020 from energy efficiency audits and installations alone, and the plan will create over 20,000 green jobs.

Renewables: Solar, wind, geothermal, and other sustainable renewable sources of energy should be pursued, enhanced, and supported with environmentally protective and proactive criteria, rules, and regulations.

Take action at: www.CleanOceanAction.org
Clean Ocean Action
13 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Sandy Hook, NJ 07732
732-872-0111



For over 28 years, the Atlantic Ocean was spared from oil and gas drilling threats thanks to a long-standing bi-partisan moratorium. In 2008, the moratorium was lifted, and President Obama opened the Atlantic Ocean to harmful oil and gas exploration and drilling.

NY/NJ's collective voice of opposition continues to be strong for our coast. Due to the strong bi-partisan resistance, the ocean directly off NY/NJ is not being considered for drilling or blasting. However, since the ocean has no barricades or boundaries, the impacts of drilling anywhere in the Atlantic will affect NY/NJ. The Gulf Stream, local currents and winds will carry pollution and spills throughout the ocean. Exploration will harm marine for thousands of miles. Here are the facts, and what you can do.

For more information: CleanOceanAction.org