

Town Council Special Called Meeting

June 10, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

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Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers
2001 Seabrook Island Road
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL & FOIA STATEMENT

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Resolution 2025-30

A resolution opposing the inclusion of new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of South Carolina in the 11th National Outer Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-30

ADOPTED _____

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE 11TH NATIONAL OUTER SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the economy of the Town of Seabrook Island depends heavily on a healthy coastal and marine environment, supporting industries such as tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and related small businesses; and

WHEREAS, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and an attractive coastal environment are vital to maintaining property values, sustaining local businesses, and ensuring the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and drilling carry inherent risks, including oil spills, leaks, habitat destruction, and pollution, which could cause significant, long-term harm to our coastal economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, even the perception of environmental risk associated with offshore drilling can negatively impact tourism, investment, and business development in coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seabrook Island has previously, in 2015 and 2018, opposed federal efforts to permit oil and gas exploration and drilling off our coast; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our coastal environment and economy is a priority for the Town of Seabrook Island, and the long-term well-being of our community outweighs the short-term benefits that expanded offshore drilling might offer to the oil and gas industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island, that:

1. **The Town of Seabrook Island formally opposes the inclusion of any exploration like seismic blasting and new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of South Carolina** in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

2. **The Town of Seabrook Island urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** to prioritize the protection of coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems by excluding exploration and new offshore oil and gas leases from the final leasing program.
3. **The Town of Seabrook Island calls on our federal representatives in Congress** to oppose efforts to expand offshore drilling and to support policies that protect our oceans, coasts, and the industries and communities that depend on them.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, Representative Nancy Mace, and any other relevant officials.

SIGNED AND SEALED this ____ day of _____, 2025, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the 10th day of June, 2025.

Signed: _____
Bruce Kleinman, Mayor

Witness: _____
Peter D. Wiggins II, Town Clerk

Trump Administration Begins Process for New Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan: All U.S. Coasts at Risk

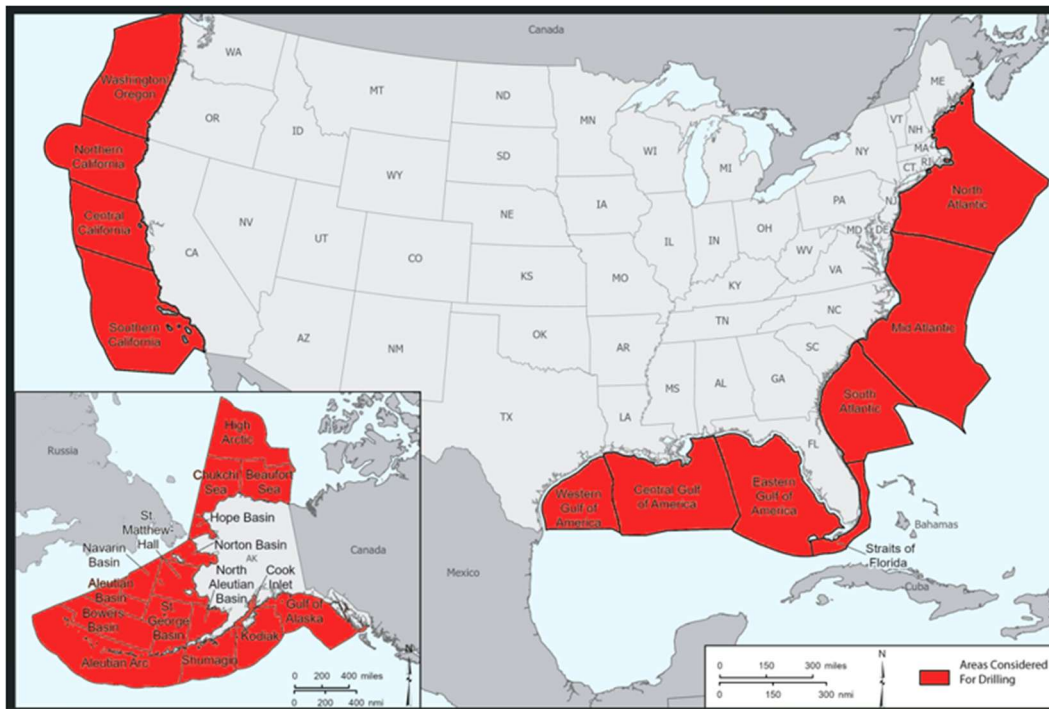
Overview of the “11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program” public comment period on the future of offshore oil and gas drilling in America

On April 18, 2025, the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced its intention to begin the process to establish a new schedule of offshore oil and gas lease sales through a new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Program (Five-Year Plan). This process began with a [Request For Information](#) (RFI) on April 30 and triggered a 45-day comment period that will end on June 16, 2025, to allow stakeholders to provide input on offshore oil and gas drilling.

President Biden finalized the current Five-Year Plan that outlines where the federal government will offer leases in 2024-2029. He also used his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently withdraw 625 million acres of federal waters, spanning the East and West coasts, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and parts of the Arctic. The Trump Administration immediately attempted to revoke those withdrawals, and this new RFI is the first step toward replacing the current Five-Year Plan to expand offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters.

BOEM is requesting public comments about potential offshore drilling activities, including seismic blasting and oil rigs, in the entire Outer Continental Shelf, including in protected areas such as National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine National Monuments, and past Presidential withdrawals.

All U.S. Coasts at Risk of Seismic Blasting and Offshore Drilling



Five-Year Program Process

The process to develop the Five-Year Plan is well defined and has a number of legally required opportunities for the public to provide input.



Take Action to Protect our Coast and Stop Expansion of Offshore Drilling

Offshore drilling is a forever decision. If we don't act now, the fate of our coasts could be sealed by the oil industry instead of all the businesses, fishers, and coastal communities who rely on healthy oceans.

Considering offshore oil and gas drilling in all areas of every U.S. coast, including currently protected places, is dangerous, unnecessary, and fails to acknowledge the devastating social, economic, and environmental consequences associated with expanding offshore drilling. Offshore drilling is a direct threat to fisheries, wildlife, coastal businesses, and local communities that depend on a clean coast for their way of life and livelihoods. Now is a critical time to speak up to defend our oceans from dirty, destructive offshore drilling for years to come.

The Administration is accepting public comments through June 16, 2025

Two options for submitting public comments:

1. Comment online via Oceana's portal, including suggested comment text:

<https://act.oceana.org/page/170870/action/1>

2. Comment online directly via the Federal Register:

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/BOEM-2025-0015-0003>