

Resolution on Seismic Airgun OCS Inventory Activities

Whereas, the Omnibus Energy Act of 2005 was adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into law during July of 2005; and

Whereas, this Omnibus Energy Act calls for an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) “Inventory” to explore for potential oil and gas resources in all federal waters, including within sensitive areas heretofore protected by the 24-year bipartisan congressional moratorium and within the waters of all U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries; and

Whereas, the “OCS Inventory” provision of the Omnibus Energy Act of 2005 threatens the fragile biological resources of the U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries and undermines longstanding precedents for ecosystem protection embodied in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and in the Designation Documents and Regulations of each National Marine Sanctuary site; and

Whereas, seismic airgun surveys for oil and gas purposes have been implicated by peer-reviewed scientific studies in causing damage to fisheries and marine mammals; and

Therefore, be it jointly resolved by the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils strongly encourage a legislative amendment exempting the waters of all sites within the National Marine Sanctuary System from the “OCS Inventory” contained in the Omnibus Energy Act of 2005; and

Further, be it jointly resolved that any seismic airgun surveys for oil and gas proposed outside of the boundaries of any U.S. National Marine Sanctuary potentially affected by such surveys should be subject to the ecosystem protection objectives and consultation requirements of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the affected sanctuary’s Designation Document and Regulations.

Passed and approved on December 9, 2005, in Half Moon Bay, by separate motions by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (5-0) and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (15-0)