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Contact: Clean Ocean Action, 732-872-0111

Clean Ocean Action Executive Director Cindy Zipf's Statement on the Obama Administration's Decision to Enthusiastically Move Forward with Oil Exploration in the Atlantic Ocean

Seismic Ocean Blasts Would Harm Marine Life

Sandy Hook, NJ – Clean Ocean Action Executive Director Cindy Zipf released the following statement today responding to Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar's announcement on moving forward with seismic exploration for oil in the Mid and Southern Atlantic Ocean:

"Today, the Obama Administration launched an environmental assault against the Atlantic Ocean by enthusiastically announcing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Study to conduct seismic exploration for offshore oil and gas reserves. This is a giant first step toward oil drilling." Said Zipf

"President Obama's 'all of the above' strategy works for oil giants like Exxon and BP – but it violates our clean ocean ecosystem and the economy that it sustains. Just look at the Gulf of Mexico: with each month, new studies expose contamination and suffering of marine life in the region. Soon the economies that depend on them will continue to decline; it is a slow, painful, tragedy and it must be stopped from other areas.

Seismic exploration will blast regions of the sensitive marine environment with pulses of sound so loud that they can impact vast areas of the ocean for thousands of square miles. Negative impacts to fish that affect commercial and recreational fishermen include depressed catch rates, habitat abandonment, and reproductive activities. Marine mammals are also harmed.

The Administration is searching for oil in all the wrong places under the pretense of reducing gasoline prices. It is a crude and false promise. Federal studies show *if* oil was found, it would take many years and would reduce gas prices by only .03 cents per gallon. Meanwhile, pollution caused by exploration and development would negatively impact fisheries and marine life, and a spill would be devastating.

The Atlantic Ocean is the last wild and fossil-fuel-industry-free region in the country and its clean ocean economy is thriving. Let's keep it that way. We urge a 'Voice of Reason' to prevail and for citizens to gear up to keep the Atlantic Ocean Fossil Fuel-free. Clean Ocean Action will be advocating citizen action and participation in the public hearings that will be held soon."

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About Clean Ocean Action

Clean Ocean Action is a coalition of over 130 boating, business, community, conservation, diving, environmental, fishing, religious, service, student, surfing, and women's groups. Based in Sandy Hook, COA is the only full time regional coalition that works exclusively for a clean ocean off the coasts of New Jersey and New York.