

“ON EFFORT”

Newsletter Year-end 2016

OFFICERS

PEACH Hubbard	President
KAREN Stack	Treasurer
SANDY Workman	Vice President
MARY Cirincione	Secretary

DIRECTORS

CHERYL Tilton	LORI Muskat
TOM Workman	DODIE Koch

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adopt A Dolphin	CHARLOTTE Keenoy
Data Review -1	PEACH Hubbard
Data Review -2	LORI Muskat
Education	PEACH Hubbard
Elections	KARLA Johnson
Facebook	MARY Cirincione
Grants	JONI Lamb
Membership	TOM & SANDY Workman
Merchandising	CHERYL Tilton
Newsletter	PEACH Hubbard
NOAA Dolphin Conservation Program	RON Sattelle & TOM Workman
NOAA liaison	LORI Muskat
Publicity	DODIE Koch
Socials	
Survey logistics	PEACH Hubbard
Training— ATL	MARGARET ANN Brown
Training—Coast	PEACH Hubbard
Website	

THE DOLPHIN PROJECT

P.O. Box 60753

Savannah, Georgia 31420

thedolphinproject@gmail.com

www.thedolphinproject.org

The Dolphin Project is an all-volunteer, non-profit research, conservation and education organization, founded in 1989, dedicated to the protection of wild estuarine Bottlenose dolphins and our shared environment. Tax ID# 58-1914176

FROM THE HELM...

Greetings Crew!

This fall and winter have been especially busy. Hence the late publication of this year-end 'On Effort' newsletter. I could have used a couple more weeks to finish projects. Ah well, there's always 2017!

2016 has been a very unusual year for TDP...

Five surveys were cancelled due to high winds / 3 in the beginning of the year and 2 at the end.

Hurricane Matthew cancelled festivals which were the fundraisers for TDP.

Eight of our skippers retired from TDP... Old friends Walt Coward and Al Hatcher passed this year (see page 9) and other skippers have sold their boats or moved out of the area.

It's been a tough year for TDP.

Fortunately there has been some good news...

TDP co-hosted a marine mammal conference with Savannah State University in Savannah (page 4).

Battles were won to conserve the coastal environment: pipeline, offshore drilling. However, we can't be complacent because there are serious issues that still need our attention and support.

We have a new board member and committee chairs which will keep TDP on track and going strong in its 28th year! (page17)

The Dolphin Project thanks you for your past support and looks forward to working together in 2017 to protect wild Bottlenose dolphins and our coastal environment.

Peach

2017 SURVEY DATES

Thanks to Frank Sitera for helping to coordinate the 2017 survey dates.

Mark your calendars and sign up ASAP for 2017 surveys. You can register online or download the forms and mail to **TDP survey, 155 Bent Tree Way, Richmond Hill, GA 31324.**

January 28

May 20

August 19

February 25

June 17

September 16

March 25

July 22

October 14

April 22

November 18

TDP TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Love Dolphins? Learn about the local Bottlenose and be amazed. Learn how to participate in dolphin research.

There is No Charge for program or training workshop.

Interested in participating in dolphin research on the coasts of Georgia and lower South Carolina? Learn how we work together as Photo-ID research teams. The Dolphin Project has been conducting Bottlenose dolphin research on the estuarine waters of lower South Carolina and Georgia since 1989, authorized by NMFS/NOAA .

If you are already a team member and haven't been through training in a few years, we urge you to retrain to learn the latest scientific information. Bring your friends!

For more information: thedolphinproject@gmail.com or
www.thedolphinproject.org

The dolphin program/training workshop will be held at the
Richmond Hill Library, 9607 Ford Avenue, Richmond Hill, GA 31324.

January 21, 2017 10:00-12:30

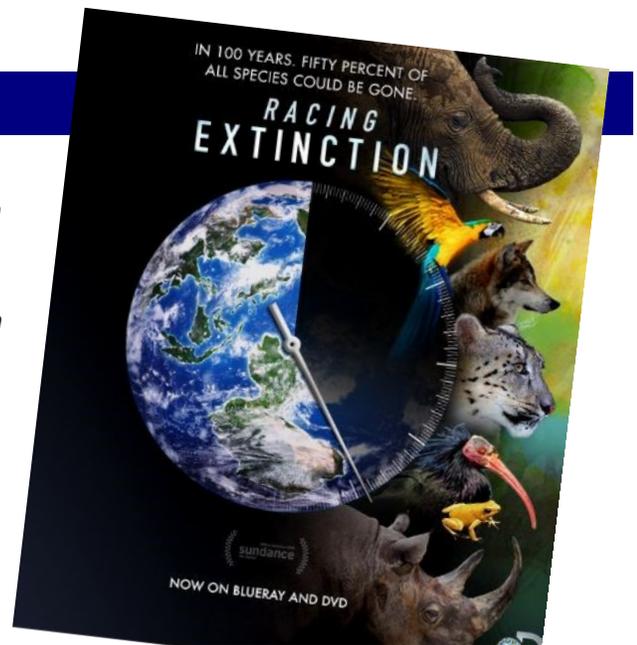
February 11, 2017 10:00-12:30

More dates & venues TBA

2016 TDP at Environmental Events...

RACING EXTINCTION. Trustees Theater– Savannah *Racing Extinction* is an eco-thriller that examines mankind & a possible role in mass extinction. Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Louie Psihoyos joins scientists, environmentalists, artists, and engineers to draw attention to this pressing issue. (If you haven't seen it, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Racing-Extinction-Louie-Psihoyos/dp/B0184RE1TG/>).

Grays Reef Film Festival, Savannah



Georgia Water Coalition - Capitol Conservation Day

Conservation Day, Atlanta Capital

SEAMAMMS, Savannah (3 days) [p.3]

Hands Across The Sands, Tybee Is.

Splash Fest at Savannah Children's Museum



Sandy & Tom Workman, Kate Young and Cheryl Tilton. Not pictured: Daniel & Belinda Walters

Ogeechee Riverkeeper Annual Meeting

COASTFEST family day at GA-DNR headquarters, Brunswick GA



SONIC SEA at Cha Bella in Savannah.

Oceans are a sonic symphony. Sound is essential to the survival and prosperity of marine life. But man-made ocean noise is threatening this fragile world. SONIC SEA is about protecting life in our waters from the destructive effects of oceanic noise pollution.



Marine Mammal Workshop.

Brunswick GA

Coastal Symposium

at College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick

Nature Conservancy Open House, Brunswick, GA



Dodie Koch listening intently to young scientist at CCG Coastal Symposium

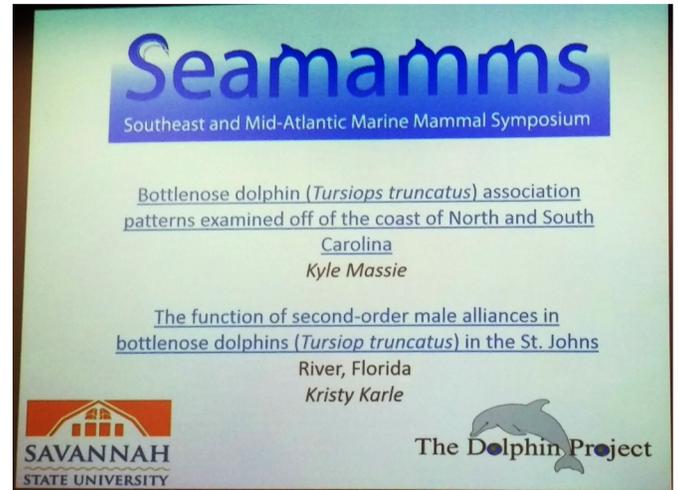
2016 EVENTS... SEAMAMMS 2016

Over the first weekend of April, The Southeast And Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium was held in Savannah—(for the first time)— and co-hosted by Savannah State University and The Dolphin Project. SEAMAMMS is an annual event that is held at various locations from Virginia to Florida, typically at Universities or marine mammal labs at government agencies such as NOAA. In Virginia it was held at the Virginia Aquarium. SEAMAMMS is an opportunity for marine science students, from undergrad to PhD, to present their research studies. Noted marine science experts can offer advice. Often these noted experts present their research projects as well. The Studies can be in oral or poster form.

SEAMAMMS has been an enormous resource for TDP to enhance the training and educational outreach programs through our connections and collaborations with marine science experts from the Smithsonian down to Texas. Most of the presentations are about the SE coastal marine mammals. However some of these marine science students conduct research on the Pacific coast and in other countries. Occasionally the chemical analyses and biological data can be too much to grasp by those of us who are not tuned in to such things, but one has to admire the determination and dedication of those young folks.

SEAMAMMS 2017 will be hosted by Dr. Andy Read et al at Duke University, Beaufort NC. In 2018, it will be held at Coastal Carolina University, hosted by Dr. Rob Young, at their new marine lab in Conway SC. I'm always excited about attending SEAMAMMS and visiting these universities again. ROAD TRIP!!! Join me!

Peach Hubbard



TDP members: Peach Hubbard, Tom Workman, Sandy Workman, Kate Young & Mary Cirincione. Not pictured: Susan Hall



SEAMAMMS co-hosts: Robin Perrtree and Dr. Tara Cox of SSU & Peach Hubbard of TDP

2016 TDP EVENTS

2016 Education Outreach Programs:

Roswell Woman's Club, Roswell GA.
Kennesaw University / OSHER Lifelong Institute,
Kennesaw GA.
Richmond Hill Garden Club, Richmond Hill GA.
Habersham Garden Club, Savannah
Chattahoochee Nature Club, Roswell GA
The Landings Ecology Club, Savannah



Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School, Savannah (4 days)



Armstrong University Volunteer Fair, Savannah
Bryan County After School Program, Richmond Hill (3 programs)

A Group of SCAD film students contacted Peach this fall for an interview to use in their film about dolphin strand feeding AKA "mudding". The interview was filmed on Ron & Gerry Sattelle's dock on the Kilkenny River. The SCAD crew will be submitting their film to the Grays Reef Film Festival in Savannah and has promised to share their footage with The Dolphin Project

2016 Training Workshops:

January 23 Richmond Hill Library, Richmond Hill
February 27 "
March 19 "
March 26 Chattahoochee Nature Center/Roswell
May 7 Richmond Hill Library, Richmond Hill
July 23 "
August 20 "
September 24 "
November 5 "

2016 Anti-environmental events:

US Congressman Buddy Carter* Town Hall Meeting, Armstrong U., Savannah

US Congressman Buddy Carter* Town Hall Meeting, City Center in Richmond Hill GA

**Carter has stated that seismic testing is comparable to ultrasound of baby in the womb!!!*

Carter says offshore drilling is good news! To see his interview promoting drilling off our coast:

http://buddycarter.house.gov/uploadedfiles/rep_carter_discusses_energy_exploration_off_the_atlantic_with_wsb-atl_.mp4

Carter is in favor of lifting the ban on crude oil exports (so that he can drill off our coasts : <http://buddycarter.house.gov/uploadedfiles/crudeoilbanfloorspeech.mp4>

These videos are on his website!!!

Page 15 has an open letter to Buddy Carter by Roy Hubbard

2016 TDP EVENTS....

TDP entered the Richmond Hill Christmas Parade again. We didn't win the trophy this year but we sure looked good and had fun participating. The theme this year was "Christmas Around The World". Since the world is over 70% water and the majority of that is ocean, we focus our design on ocean wildlife. The base of the float was the Hubbard's boat "Just Peachy". We cut a blue tarp in half lengthwise and



printed sealife on each side. We hung homemade jellies over the side of the boat, added our plush dolphins on the gunnels and set up our bubble machine. We thought it was a sure winner! We passed out over 2,000 "protect dolphin" stickers to those lined up to enjoy the parade. Many thanks to Gary & Dodie & Lily Koch, Susan Hall, Ron & Gerry Sattelle, Tom & Sandy Workman, Mary Cirincione, Roy & Peach Hubbard.

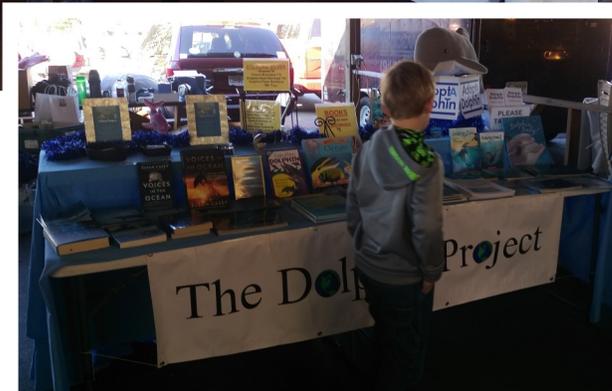
We were also grateful for the folks on the Family Promise float who jump started our car after the battery went dead (just as the parade was about to start!) Gratitude also to Randy and his golf cart—for driving Tom & Hub from Plantation Lumber back to our place in line with the generator rental (to run the bubble machine) after TDP's generator wouldn't start. WHEW!!! It was a crazy morning!!!! But fun :-)



2016 TDP EVENTS



TDP participated in the **Richmond Hill Holiday Market** for the first time this year. We offered dolphin adoptions for sale, printed and packaged right there, as well as TDP t-shirts, caps and awesome books for all ages. May thanks to Mary Cirincione, Belinda & Daniel Walters, Tom & Sandy Workman, Peach Hubbard and Dodie & Gary Koch.



2016 SERENDIPITIES!

This spring we were contacted by the Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School. They had an ocean theme for their summer camp and asked if we would like to be the recipient of their fundraiser challenge. They pitted the girls vs the boys to see which group could raise the most money for charity. The Dolphin Project gave brief dolphin programs to each class that week and we received a nice gift from the children.

At the end of the summer, The Dolphin Project was contacted by Emily Kessler who works for a company that manages musical group called The Big Gigantic. She said that the group would be performing in Savannah at the end of October and they would like to donate a percentage of the proceeds from their show to The Dolphin Project. Would we be interested? "Mmm???? YES!"

TDP is most grateful for their gift. For more information on the Big Gigantic, go to: <http://www.bigigantic.net/>



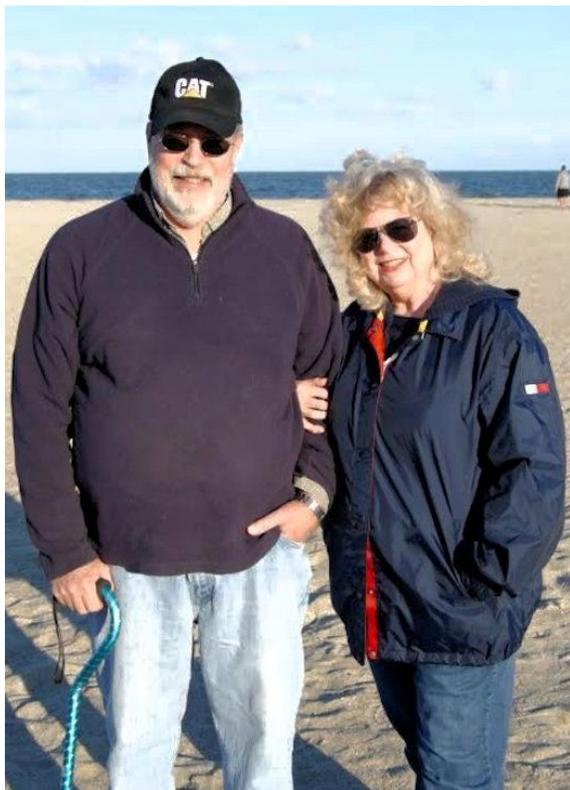
2016 SURVEY CREWS



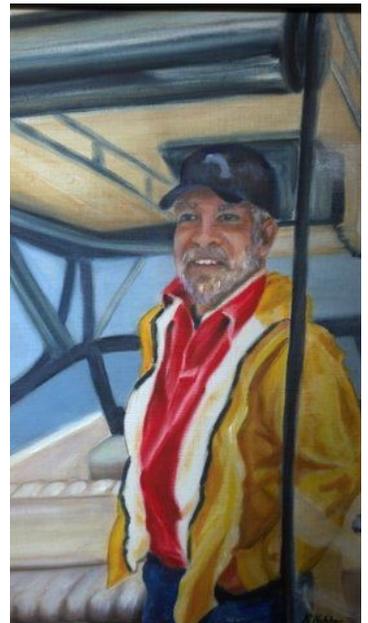
SALUTE TO SKIPPERS...

We treasure all of our skippers. Without them we could not be a viable research organization. The Dolphin Project lost two skippers, two dear friends late this year.

WALT COWARD passed away in October. A Savannahian, he knew the waters here and was an avid fisherman and boater. He became a TDP skipper back in the early 90's. His granddaughter Amanda eventually joined him on TDP surveys as a Team Leader which gave him great pleasure. They made a great team and being a member of their crew made for a delightful day. *We miss you Walt.*



AL HATCHER was President of The Dolphin Project when Hub and I joined in 2002. His wife Kathy was Secretary. Al and Kathy always made folks feel welcome. They too had joined TDP back in the early 90's and were familiar with coastal waters in the Midway-Richmond Hill area. Al was an advisor for me when I became president. A few years ago I enlisted his help as a Treasurer to clarify some records. Al served as a skipper until health issues interceded. *We miss you Al.*



Painting of AL by Kathy Hatcher

Obama bans offshore drilling... Washington Post

December 20, 2016. The Washington Post.
By Darryl Fears and Juliet Eilperin

On December 20th, President Obama withdrew hundreds of millions of acres of federally owned land in the Arctic and Atlantic Ocean from new offshore oil and gas drilling. He used a little-known law called the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to protect large portions of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in the Arctic and a string of canyons in the Atlantic stretching from Massachusetts to Virginia. In addition to a five-year moratorium already in place in the Atlantic, removing the canyons from drilling puts much of the eastern seaboard off limits to oil exploration even if companies develop plans to operate around them.

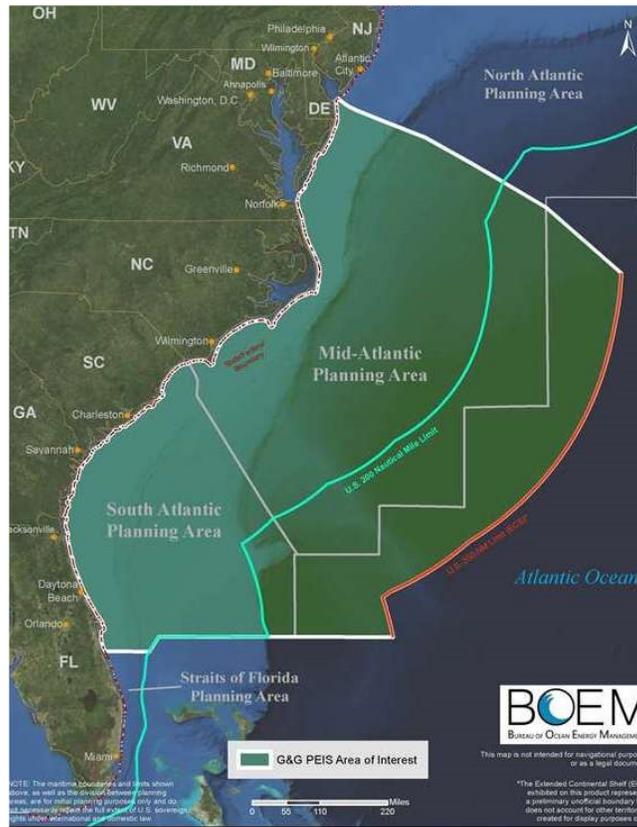
The announcement by the White House late in the afternoon was coordinated with similar steps being taken by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to shield large areas of that nation's Arctic waters from drilling. Neither measure affects leases already held by oil and gas companies and drilling activity in state waters. "These actions, and Canada's parallel actions, protect a sensitive and unique ecosystem that is unlike any other region on earth," the White House said in a statement. "They reflect the scientific assessment that, even with the high safety standards that both our countries have put in place, the risks of an oil spill in this region are significant and our ability to clean up from a spill in the region's harsh conditions is limited.

White House officials described their actions to make the areas off limits to future oil and gas exploration and drilling as indefinite. Officials said the withdrawals under Section 12-A of the 1953 act used by presidents dating to Dwight Eisenhower cannot be undone by an incoming president. It is not clear if Congress can rescind Obama's action.

"There is a precedent of more than half a century of this authority being utilized by presidents of both parties," a White House aide said. "There is no authority for subsequent presidents to un-withdraw. . . I can't speak to what a future Congress will do." "The U.S. is not acting alone today. Canada is acting to put an indefinite stop to activity in its waters as well," the aide said. "With Canada, we send a powerful signal and reinforce our commitment to work together."

David Rivkin, an attorney for the Baker and Hostetler law firm who served on the White House Counsel staffs

of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, disagreed with the assertion that the decision cannot be overturned. "Basically I say the power to withdraw entails the power to un-withdraw," Rivkin said, "especially if you determine the justification for the original withdrawal is no longer valid." A legal fight would likely follow, Rivkin said. But "it's not clear why Congress would want to give a president tremendous authority operating only one way." Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) responded sharply on Twitter: "Yet another Obama abuse of power. Hopefully, on [e] that will be reversed...exactly one month from today" after Trump's inauguration. Cruz closed his



Atlantic OCS G&G Programmatic EIS
Area of Interest

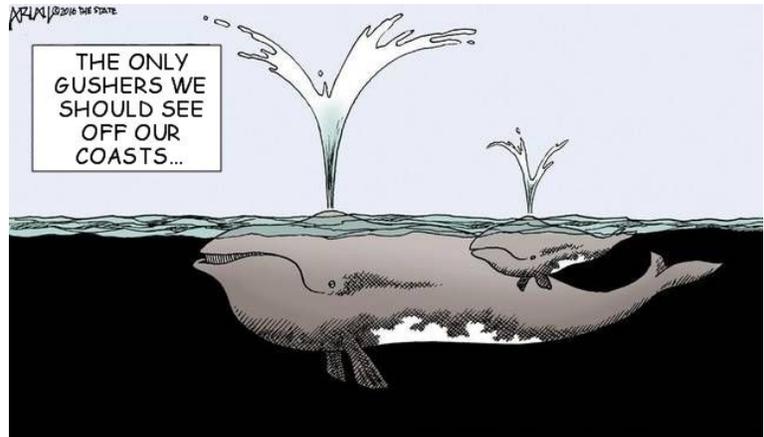
Obama bans offshore drilling... Washington Post

tweet with a hashtag: “Taking away Obama’s pen and phone.”

U.S. and Canadian officials have negotiated for months to reach a joint understanding on how to manage adjacent areas in the ocean in an effort to make the new protections as sweeping and politically durable as possible. Meanwhile, advocacy groups lobbied Obama to ban oil and gas leasing in the Arctic entirely. Obama already invoked the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to safeguard Alaska’s Bristol Bay in 2014, and again last year to protect part of Alaska’s Arctic coast. The president has protected 125 million acres in the region in the last two years, according to a fact sheet issued by the White House.

The Beaufort and Chukchi seas are habitat for several species listed as endangered and species that are candidates for the endangered species, including the bowhead whale, fin whale, Pacific walrus and polar bear. Concern for the animals has heightened as the Arctic warms faster than anywhere else in the world and sea ice the bears use to hunt continues to melt.

Canyon offshore New England to Norfolk Canyon offshore the Chesapeake Bay,” according to a separate fact sheet. They are widely recognized as major biodiversity hotspots that are critical to fisheries. The canyons provide deep water corals used by a wide array of fish. The area also provides habitat “for ... deepwater corals, deep diving beaked whales, commercially valuable fishes, and



HELP PROTECT THE ENDANGERED RIGHT WHALE - SAY NO TO OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION

significant numbers of habitat-forming soft and hard corals, sponges, and crabs,” the White House said.

The American Petroleum Institute denounced the decision. “The administration’s decision to remove key Arctic and Atlantic offshore areas from future leasing consideration ignores congressional intent, our national security, and vital, good-paying job opportunities for our shipyards, unions, and businesses of all types across the country,” said Erik Milito, the group’s Upstream director. “Our national security depends on our ability to produce oil and natural gas here in the United States,” Milito said. “This proposal would take us in the wrong direction just as we have become world leader in production and refining of oil and natural gas and in reduction of carbon emissions.” Contradicting the White House’s statement, Milito said George W. Bush removed previous 12-A withdrawal areas with a memorandum and made all but marine sanctuaries available for leasing. “We are hopeful the incoming administration will reverse this decision as the nation continues to need a robust



Hundreds of kayakers protest drilling in the Arctic and Port of Seattle being used as a port for the Shell Oil drilling rig Polar Pioneer (Daniella Beccaria/seattlepi.com via Associated Press)

The underwater canyons protected by the president cover nearly 4 million acres across the Atlantic continental shelf break, “running from Heezen

Obama bans offshore drilling... Washington Post

strategy for developing offshore and onshore energy,” he said.



But a wide range of conservation groups hailed the decision. League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski called it “an incredible holiday gift,” saying that “an oil spill in these pristine waters would be devastating to the wildlife and people who live in the region.” Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, called it “a historic victory in our fight to save our Arctic and Atlantic waters, marine life, coastal communities and all they support.” Carter Roberts, president and chief executive of the World Wildlife Fund, applauded what he called “a bold decision” that “signals some places are just too important not to protect.” Oil production in the Arctic represents a tenth of one percent of the nation’s oil production overall, the White House said. The area is so sensitive and so remote that the economics of exploration is costly.

Shell, which said in September 2015 that it would shelve drilling plans after spending \$7 billion and not finding significant amounts of oil, still has one remaining lease in the Chukchi Sea where it drilled a well earlier last year. Shell is also part of a joint venture with Italian oil giant ENI and Spanish firm Repsol in the Beaufort Sea that holds 13 leases. Shell held other leases in the Beaufort Sea, which the company transferred to the Arctic Slope

Regional Corp., a company belonging to the Native Americans in the region.

An earlier plan to allow limited drilling off the Atlantic coast was shelved after state governments along the southern Atlantic coasts — including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia — expressed worries over the effect on their beaches, tourist industry and environmentally sensitive marsh.

The Navy also objected. The Pentagon provided Interior with a map “that identifies locations ... areas where the [Defense’s] offshore readiness activities are not compatible, partially compatible or minimally impacted by oil and gas activities,” department spokesman Matthew Allen said. The map included nearly the entire



proposed drilling area. Live training exercises are conducted off the Atlantic coast, “from unit level training to major joint service and fleet exercises,” Allen said in a statement. “These live training events are fundamental to the ability of our airmen, sailors, and marines to attain and sustain the highest levels of military readiness.”

The Obama administration eventually closed the Atlantic to drilling for five years.

Obama's offshore drilling plan could be illegal... The Daily Caller

December 22, 2016.

The Daily Caller News Foundation.

By Andrew Follet

Outgoing President Barack Obama used his executive authority to “permanently” ban oil drilling in parts of the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, but this move may be illegal, according to an industry group. Obama’s administration used a legal strategy crafted by environmental activists to remove sections of the Arctic and Atlantic oceans from future offshore drilling lease sales, which they claim will be “permanent.”

“It is pretty clear that this is a hollow 11th hour action,” Christopher Guith, a senior vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. “In spite of the narrative that extreme interest groups who pushed the White House to do this, there’s nothing about this that’s permanent. The White House itself didn’t use the phrase permanent, they said it was ‘indefinite.’”



The administration and its environmental allies used Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a 1953 law governing offshore drilling, in an unprecedented way to block offshore drilling leases in the Atlantic Ocean and the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.

“This flies in the face of how we do offshore leasing,” Guith continued. “Every 5 years, we have to do a new offshore leasing plan. There’s already precedent for a new President rescinding his predecessors withdrawal. George W. Bush rescinded Clinton’s offshore drilling ruling already when gas prices were high.”

Environmentalists hope it will take Trump or Congress years to repeal an Obama decision to permanently keep Arctic and Atlantic areas off limits to drilling, but a simple lawsuit could overturn all of that.

“I’d be very surprised if somebody like the State of Alaska or an industry group didn’t sue President Obama immediately,” Guith told TheDCNF. “There are a lot of questions about whether Obama’s ruling followed the law. By the time it gets to court, the Obama administration is now the Trump administration. That will be a huge policy difference.”

Offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean has the potential to produce 1.3 million barrels of oil and natural gas per day while generating nearly 280,000 jobs and contribute up to \$23.5 billion per year to the U.S. economy, according to a 2013 study by the [American Petroleum Institute](#).

“The Trump administration could easily just agree with the plaintiff and rescind Obama’s ruling,” Guith concluded.

“Despite all the vitriol of the people who have been pushing this, this isn’t really much of a legal question. Trump can unilaterally rescind this via executive order. Environmentalists would sue, but any first-year law student would tell them they’ll almost certainly lose.”

Obama's offshore drilling plan could be illegal... The Daily Caller

The primary federal rulings blocking offshore drilling are studies from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in consultation with the Department of Defense, which state that drilling **could potentially interfere with naval operations.**

"This is ultimately a symbolic attempt," Guith noted. "There are steps they could have taken that would have been much more permanent. They didn't use those mechanisms because they know that if they had, it'd taint other much more robust laws."

Offshore oil drilling platforms and import facilities are too costly an investment when at its currently remarkably low prices. Major players like Exxon-Mobil have actually lost money in the U.S. offshore drilling business for six straight quarters, but if prices rise this could become the more attractive option.

Even Virginia Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton's choice to become vice president agrees. Kaine joined legislators in sending a letter to the Department of the Interior in April 2015, pushing for expanded offshore drilling.

Opening federal lands for natural gas, oil, and other drilling would create 2.7 million jobs and add \$663 billion to the economy each year for the next 30



years, according to a new study published last December by Louisiana State University and **the Institute for Energy Research (IER)*.**

**(IER was founded by Robert L. Bradley Jr., former director at Enron and has received funding from the Brown Foundation (started by founders of a construction and energy company), Exxon-Mobil, the American Petroleum Institute, and Peabody Energy. They do not accept funding from the US government.)*

SEISMIC TESTING and more...

Comments from Peach...

I tend to be an optimist. I like to give folks the benefit of the doubt. I check my FACTS. I check who is funding the "scientific" reports. As president of TDP, I get emails from environmental groups from all over the United States—and beyond. Since the election results were posted, many of them were freaking out—*STATING* that President-elect Donald Trump *WILL* counter Obama's offshore drilling plan with his own five-year plan. Were it so, it would be years before drilling could start. The president-elect's authority to undo a permanent

prohibition is unclear. TAKE NOTE: Obama's offshore drilling plan **does not prevent seismic testing.** We can't allow this to begin because it will be the beginning of the end of life here as we know it. We Georgians and South Carolinians need to be especially vigilant, write our president-elect. Write our legislators. Talking face-to-face is even better. Spread the word with friends and neighbors about protecting our coast...with the **FACTS.** (which have been stated in previous ON EFFORT newsletters) We have a treasure here. It's our responsibility to protect it now and in the future.

An Open Letter to Buddy Carter by Roy "Hub" Hubbard

This letter was printed recently in local newspapers:

An open letter to Representative Buddy Carter

December 1, 2016

Representative Buddy Carter
432 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20616

Dear Representative Carter,

On one of your recent visits to Richmond Hill I provided you with a DVD and some accompanying literature regarding the practice of seismic testing in ocean waters to detect oil deposits. There is a covert movement by big oil to bring seismic testing to the continental shelf on the Georgia coast.

I am hopeful that by now you have found the time to review the material provided. The DVD, entitled "The Sonic Sea" addresses the fact that the occupants of the ocean, the animal life, depend almost one hundred percent on sound and sound waves to survive.

Seismic testing destroys that ability. At the very least it bursts ear drums, drowns out animal sound waves better known as "echo location" used, among other things, to locate food, each other and natural enemies. Seismic testing seriously hampers, if not completely destroys, marine animals ability to navigate. Almost every aspect of marine animal life will be totally disrupted by the horrendous blast of seismic sound waves. The necessary actions of feeding, mating, protecting, defending, navigating, and just generally surviving will be greatly diminished to the point of expiration of some species.

Seismic sound waves are literally one hundred thousand times more powerful and louder than the blast of a jet engine. Seismic sound waves are capable of stripping flesh from the bone. Even the U.S. Government admits to estimates of hundreds of thousands of animals, sea life, being destroyed if the

testing is done. Those estimates are low.

I have serious concerns after hearing rumors of Big Oil interests attempting to influence the Georgia vote with large campaign contributions when the subject of Seismic testing comes to the political table.

Presently, President O'Bama has declared a moratorium on drilling for oil off the Georgia coast. That is nothing more than political double talk.

There would most probably not be any attempt to do any drilling for at least the next four to five years. The seismic testing comes first.

Representative Carter, the documentary "Sonic Sea" which I provided you, addresses the horrendous negative effect seismic testing would have on marine life. Additionally, it is necessary to factor in the potential disastrous results to the coastal-connected businesses that represent a multi-billion dollar industry and more importantly, the quality of life for coastal residents. The question of wantonly destroying millions of animals for greed is immoral and unethical.

Seismic testing is the immediate threat simply because it paves the way for drilling for oil. That is the greater and final threat. The entire coast of Georgia is unique in the world where the dynamics of near shore movement of water are concerned. We are not the Gulf of Mexico. Oil slicks from ruptured oil wells in the Gulf are dependent on very slow currents and surface winds to move and spread them. That is not the case on the coast of Georgia.

Every twelve hours a phenomena occurs on the Georgia coast. We experience the highest tides south of Cape Cod. Every twelve hours we experience billions of tons of water flowing from the sea, at speeds of several knots per hour, running deep into our coastal estuaries and back

An Open Letter to Buddy Carter by Roy "Hub" Hubbard (continued)

out again. We experience tides that are seven to ten feet, or more, on the Georgia coast when, in comparison, Charleston, South Carolina may have a two foot tide and Jacksonville, Florida experiences zero tides.

The Atlantic Bight is a curve in the Continental shelf with the entire coast of Georgia being located in the apex of that curve. That configuration creates a funneling effect, dumping billions of tons of water into our coastal marshlands twice a day in a massive rush. This is a phenomenon not experienced either to the north or south of our coastline, not in the Gulf of Mexico and certainly not on the plains of Texas!

Were there to be a ruptured oil well, which I would suggest is an inevitability, oil would literally encircle our barrier islands destroying all of those miles of beautiful pristine beaches and resident wild life. It would then fill our marshes, creeks and rivers. Were the disaster to occur during an Equinox tide or an extremely high tide, oil could top roads, settle in people's yards and wreak permanent havoc all the way past I 95.

Do the math. A ruptured oil well forty miles out to sea with oil traveling with the natural current at three to five knots would inundate the coast of Georgia within ten hours. You are not going to vacuum up oil in the Atlantic Ocean.

There is almost a continuous influence of north easterly winds and general flow of water from north to south along our coast. A ruptured oil well anywhere along the Carolina coast or northern portion of the coast of Georgia would affect the entire coast of Georgia.

Within another one to two hours the oil would have impacted our sounds, coated our marshes and

tributaries and continued up stream polluting our rivers for several miles. Then the tide would reverse. Much of the crude would permanently settle in place with another wave of destruction washing back out across our marshes and sounds towards the sea on the outgoing tide. All this destruction so somebody can sell more petroleum to Russia and China?! I don't think so.

It may sound preposterous but a ruptured oil well off the Georgia coast could literally permanently destroy the entire coastline with a coating of crude oil.

I know the battle cry of "energy independence" sounds great. I only question why the facts that we are actually reducing our demand for fossil fuels and the market for such fuels is moving to Europe and Asia are not both included in the discussion.

I would rather pay more for gas than allow the entire Georgia coast to become an un-occupiable oil slick. I vote NO to seismic testing and NO to oil wells in the Atlantic Ocean. My vote doesn't count. The vote of our representation does. Who represents me/us?

Representative Carter, in my humble opinion, your position on this matter should be made public to your constituency post haste. I hope your conclusions are simply that we cannot expose ourselves to the very real possibility of sacrificing so much for big oil profits. Your public stand against seismic testing and a promise of a "NO" vote from you and we can set aside those rumors of Big Oil influence in Georgia politics.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy Hubbard

RIGHT WHALES...

The first Right Whale of the calving season was spotted off Sapelo Island on November 16th. To learn about sightings as they happen, follow NOAA's website:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/right_whale/seus_sightings/index.html



Right Whale illustration by Pieter Folkens

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome **DODIE KOCH** aboard TDP's Board of Directors. She already serves as a research survey Team Leader and has graciously offered to serve as Publicity Chairperson! We are so excited to have her support, ideas and her energy. We're looking forward to working with Dodie on various projects and research surveys.



Mary Cirincione, DODIE KOCH, Dolphin, Peach Hubbard

PARTNERSHIPS...

There isn't enough room in this newsletter to give you all the environmental news this year so I focused on the biggest threats to our coast—seismic testing and offshore drilling. We partner with many environmental organizations that have the resources to cover and fight not only the drilling and seismic threats but many others as well, such as the development of Cumberland Island, superfund sites in Brunswick, Safe Seafood, Water Quality, Spaceport Camden, the proposed Sea Island groin, threatened and endangered sea turtles, Expansion of Elba Island (Savannah) LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) facility, etc.

I encourage you to check the websites of our environmental partners for information on these and other coastal issues.

100 MILES

<http://www.onehundredmiles.org/>

GLYNN ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

<http://www.glynnenvironmental.org/>

GEORGIA WATER COALITION

<http://www.garivers.org/gawater/>

COASTAL GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB

<http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/coastal>

OGEECHEE RIVERKEEPER

<http://ogeecheeriverkeeper.org/>

SAVANNAH RIVERKEEPER

<http://www.savannahriverkeeper.org/>

ALTAMAHA RIVERKEEPER

<http://www.altamahariverkeeper.org/>

GWC's DIRTY DOZEN +...

Every year the GEORGIA WATER COALITION compiles the worst a list of the worst offenses to Georgia's water's.

Georgia's Well Water: *Coal Ash Disposal at Landfill Threatens Well Water (JESUP)*

Coosa River: *Outdated Regulations Allow Coal-fired Power Plant To Dump Toxins in River (ROME)*

Northwest Georgia's Drinking Water: *Fracking for Natural Gas Fraught With Dangers Under Georgia's Outdated Regulations (ROME, CALHOUN, DALTON)*

Chattahoochee River: *\$99 Million Nuclear Power Plant Study Squeezes Ratepayers, Water and Clean Energy (GEORGETOWN, COLUMBUS, BAINBRIDGE)*

Georgia's Groundwater: *While Toxins Seep Into Our Well Water, Protections Remain Lax (JULIETTE, MACON)*

Georgia's Coast: *Oil Exploration Threatens Coastal Tourism, Devastates Wildlife (SAVANNAH, BRUNSWICK)*

Lake Sinclair: *Future of Coal Ash Ponds Looms Over Oconee River Lake (MILLEDGEVILLE)*

Chattahoochee, Flint, Withlacoochee Rivers and Floridan Aquifer: *Gas pipeline company, federal agency run roughshod over state, local residents property rights (ALBANY)*

South River: *Dekalb County's Aging Sewers Pollute Urban River (ATLANTA)*

Cumberland Island National Seashore: *Camden County Rocket Launching Project Threatens Coast, Historic Barrier Island (ST. MARY'S)*

Georgia's Rivers, Stream and Lakes: *Agency Charged With Protecting State's Water Thwarts Legislators' Efforts To Protect All Georgia Waterways with Natural Buffer (STATEWIDE)*

Georgia's Public Health: *Legislators Steal Funds Intended for Cleanup of Toxic Sites, Mosquito-breeding Tire Dumps (STATEWIDE)*

2017 DATES TO REMEMBER ...

Check page 2 for the 2017 survey dates and training dates (more TBA)

SOCIALS will be held on the following Saturdays:

February 25, May 20, August 19 and November 18.

Programs and details will be announced as soon as they are confirmed and you will be notified via email.

Details will be emailed when confirmed for the following events:

March or April SEAMAMMS at Duke U. Marine Lab, Beaufort SC

April Savannah Earth Day

October 7 Coastfest, Brunswick

October 20-22 Ogeechee Seafood Festival, Richmond Hill, GA

October 21-22 Bluffton Art & Seafood Festival, Bluffton SC

October TBA Coastal Ecology Symposium, College of Coastal GA, Brunswick

October 28 SKIO Ocean Day, Savannah

SKILLS & TALENTS NEEDED ...

We need your help to keep The Dolphin Project successful. If you have skills and talents in the following departments, please contact Peach at thedolphinproject@gmail.com.

Coordinating Socials

Training & Education Outreach (Public speaking)

Website design and/or management

Newsletters

Membership / Recruitment

Data Entry for Research Surveys

Fundraising

Happy New Year!