

# ***PROTECT FLORIDA'S BEACHES***

From Oil Drilling in Coastal Waters



*Thunder Horse in the Gulf of Mexico © MMS*

## **OIL AND GAS DRILLING PROPOSALS PUT FLORIDA'S BEACHES AT RISK**

- A shadowy group of investors is hiring top lobbyists and buying off legislators (through contributions) to reverse Florida's ban on drilling near our coast.
- Oil drilling is not safe – there are no guarantees that spills will not happen near our beaches.

*The EPA documents that “there is as great as a 47% chance that the slick would reach Florida’s coastal waters before dissipating,” when considering the event of a spill.*

## **OIL WELLS THREATEN THE STATE'S \$562 BILLION COASTAL ECONOMY**

- Oil spills in Texas and other Gulf states have seriously harmed beaches and wildlife and polluted coastal waters.
- Oil pipelines and onshore refineries would also damage Florida's fragile coast.
- 950,000 jobs and thousands of business depend on tourism, especially beach visitors.



## **COASTAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS ARE OUTRAGED**

- Florida's coastal communities depend on clean water and clean beaches. People who live in and visit beach communities know drilling is risky.
- The most valuable property and most visited state parks are on the beaches. These assets are placed at risk by drilling rigs and pipelines.

## **INDEPENDENCE FROM FOREIGN OIL?**

- The proposal would enable foreign companies and governments to buy rights to Florida's coastal resources. Recent news reports show that China is buying up mineral rights around the world.
- Any oil recovered would enter global markets and prices would be dictated by world prices.
- Recoverable oil wouldn't even hit markets for ten years and gas prices in Florida would not be lowered.



*People don't come to Florida for oil.*



*They come for the beaches and for recreation.*

*Former Gov. Jeb Bush: Opposing oil drilling "is clearly the environmentally and economically rational choice for Florida."*

## OIL SPILLS ARE EXPENSIVE

- Costs for spill clean-ups range from \$26,000 - \$140,000 per ton.
- Little spills cost more to clean up (per ton) than big spills

## OIL DRILLING IS DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

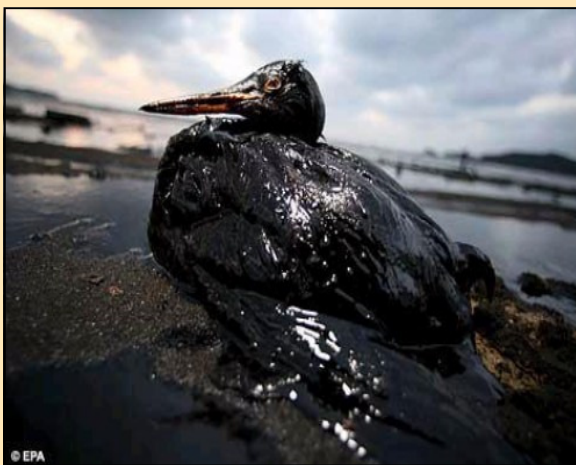
- Drilling releases mercury and other toxic chemicals into surrounding waters.
- In other states people complain about sickening fumes released from drilling platforms.



© NOAA

## FALSE ECONOMIC PROMISES

- The lobbyists and legislators (while refusing to say who is bankrolling the operation) claim without proof that money from drilling will help Florida's government.
- Although leases will go for as little as \$1 million apiece, drillers will own rights worth billions. Florida would be paid less than 15% of the value of any oil produced.
- No drilling revenue will be appropriated in the state's annual budget.



## WHAT OIL DRILLING DOES PROMISE

- Lost tourism revenue.
- Decreased overall economic output.
- Decreased coastal property values.
- Reduced commercial fishing earnings.
- Decreased recreational retail sales.
- Long-term pollution of environmental resources.
- Degradation of critical wildlife habitat.
- Increased health risk factors.



**PROTECT  
FLORIDA'S  
BEACHES**



**ACT NOW!**

**The Oil Industry sure is**  
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<http://protectfloridasbeaches.org>