



International Game Fish Association, Inc.

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2840 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

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1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

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Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross:

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers throughout the world and has active members in 172 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing, and provides rules for ethical angling practices.

IGFA opposes geophysical surveys using seismic air gun arrays in the Atlantic Ocean and recognizes the serious risks posed by seismic testing and offshore drilling to marine life at the species and population levels. Seismic airguns create one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean and will negatively impact marine life including fish, whose migrations patterns would be affected and whales, including endangered Atlantic right whales, who depend on sound for communication and survival. Furthermore, the draft proposal evaluates each company's application separately and doesn't account for the cumulative affect of multiple tests in the same region.

Marine resources in this area also support a large job base that generates important revenue. Recreational fishing in particular is a very significant economic entity in the Mid and South Atlantic Regions. As such, we feel that there is simply too much at risk in going forward with seismic testing.

IGFA is concerned that oil and gas exploration and extraction activities may harm these resources and the communities that depend on them. It would be irresponsible to allow surveys and put our fisheries and marine ecosystems at risk.

Sincerely,

Jason Schratwieser
International Game Fish Association

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making, record keeping and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of angling.

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