Offshore oil drilling protest expected to be biggest since Gulf disaster

May 15 2015 2:04 pm • May 15 4:38 pm
Organizers of an annual demonstration on Folly Beach against offshore oil drilling and for clean energy expect the largest turnout Saturday since the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Charleston area’s sixth annual Hands Across the Sand demonstration, which is an international event, will be held noon-12:15 p.m. Saturday on the beach adjacent to the Edwin S. Taylor Fishing Pier and in front of the Tides hotel. A press conference will start at 11:45 a.m.

Chris Carnevale, coastal climate and energy coordinator with the nonprofit Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, said he expects “a much higher turnout” than in past years because of the recent approval of seismic airgun blasting and a proposal for drilling off of South Carolina’s shores.

“Coastal residents are now seeing that their concerns about offshore drilling are closer to reality than ever before and they are standing up to protect the coast that they love,” said Carnevale.

“The great turnout we expect at the event this year and the 18 local government resolutions that have passed in South Carolina, along with dozens more in neighboring states, is the voice of the communities, the voice of the voters and the voice of the coast.”
request the Department of Interior to cancel its plans for offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic,” he said.

According to an Institute for Southern Studies investigation, Haley was part of a coalition of governors who worked behind the scenes, largely in private, with industry lobbyists to open the Southeast coast to oil and natural gas testing and drilling.

The finding adds to a growing unease among conservationists about ties between oil industry advocates and decision-makers. Earlier this month, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control signed off on the first of as many as 10 permits for seismic gun testing without a mandated public hearing, environmentalists have charged.

Saturday's event also will feature comments from the Rev. Jeremy Rutledge, senior pastor of Circular Congregational Church, and Folly Beach Mayor Tim Goodwin. Other elected officials from numerous local governments that have formally opposed drilling have been invited to the event.

Since its first year in 2010, Hands Across the Sand/Land gatherings have taken place in all 50 states and 43 countries worldwide. Other demonstrations in South Carolina on Saturday will be held in Garden City and Myrtle Beach.

Hands Across the Sand is backed by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Oceana, The Gulf Restoration Network and Friends of the Earth.

Keywords

- Chris Carnevale (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Chris%20Carnevale)
- Folly Beach (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Folly%20Beach)
- Hands Across The Sand (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Hands%20Across%20The%20Sand)
- Jeremy Rutledge (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Jeremy%20Rutledge)
- offshore drilling (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:offshore%20drilling)
- oil and gas exploration (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:oil%20and%20gas%20exploration)
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Southern%20Alliance%20for%20Clean%20Energy)
- Tim Goodwin (section/search&facet.filter=Keywords:Tim%20Goodwin)

Comments