



OFFSHORE DRILLING: Groups urge Obama to ban all new leasing

Margaret Kriz Hobson, E&E reporter
March 29, 2016

A group of 45 environmental and indigenous groups petitioned President Obama today to issue an executive order barring oil and gas development off of all U.S. coasts, including Gulf of Mexico and Arctic regions that were targeted for drilling under a recent Interior Department draft leasing program.

The advocates, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, argued that a drilling ban is essential to align U.S. energy policy with the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, which the White House backs.

The groups called for resource extraction restrictions in all federally managed offshore regions that have not already been leased to industry. The federal government controls 1.7 billion acres of outer continental shelf along the U.S. shores....

"President Obama recognized oil drilling off the Atlantic coast was a bad idea," Miyo Sakashita, oceans program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. "But the same logic -- that we must protect our climate, wildlife and coastal communities from oil spills and carbon emissions -- holds true for all ocean coasts."...