

# RICK SCOTT'S OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING HYPOCRISY

## Key Points:

### 2010: Scott Supported Offshore Drilling And Opposed A Moratorium On Drilling Near Florida

- Rick Scott repeatedly advocated for drilling, saying it was necessary for energy independence and that it can be done safely. In 2011, Scott called for a new energy policy that included options for oil and gas drilling.
- Rick Scott opposed a constitutional amendment to ban offshore drilling in Florida, saying it was “not realistic” to ban the practice.
- After the Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010, President Obama placed a moratorium on drilling near Florida. Rick Scott said he was “absolutely” opposed to the move.

### 2011: Scott Supported Drilling In The Everglades Until He Saw It Was Politically Unpopular

- Rick Scott initially said that he could support a “cautious” amount of drilling in the Everglades, but then backed off, saying there would be no drilling there after the idea proved politically unpopular.

### 2017: Rick Scott “Refused to Join” Nearly All East Coast Governors Urging Trump to Continue The Ban On Offshore Oil & Gas Leases

- In August of 2017, nearly all East Coast governors, Republicans and Democrats, voiced concern about offshore drilling to the Trump administration, but “Scott refused to join them.”

### 2017: Under Scott, Florida Was The Only State Not To Take A Position When Interior Dept. Officials Presented The New Drilling Plan

- The Interior Dept. briefed state governments before making their drilling plan public, and only the Scott Administration “did not state [a] position” on the plan. A dozen state governments “requested exclusion” from the plan.

### 2018: Scott Opposed The Trump Administration’s Plan To Expand Offshore Oil Drilling After The Decision Was Announced

- Rick Scott opposed the Trump Administration’s plan to expand offshore oil drilling in the Atlantic and planned to meet with the Secretary of the Interior to express his opposition to the plan.

## 2010: Rick Scott Supported Offshore Drilling

### SCOTT SUPPORTED OFFSHORE DRILLING DURING HIS FIRST GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN

#### Scott Believed Offshore Oil Drilling Could Be Done “With The Right Precautions”

**Rick Scott: “I Believe We Can Come Up With A Way To Drill With The Right Precautions.”** According to PolitiFact, “She sent us a link to an interview on WIOD News Radio in which he was asked if he wanted to continue to drill. ‘I believe we can come up with a way to drill with the right precautions,’ Scott said.” [PolitiFact, [5/18/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: “If There’s Oil Down There, We Have To Figure Out How We Can Drill For It. But We Have To Create Safeguards. I Believe We Can.”** According to the Tampa Bay Times, “If elected, Scott said he would review each state

agency, end programs that don't work and create a regulatory environment to support business and jobs. He said he supports nuclear power and offshore oil drilling. 'If there's oil down there, we have to figure out how we can drill for it. But we have to create safeguards. I believe we can,' he said." [Tampa Bay Times, [5/26/10](#)]

**Rick Scott On Offshore Oil Drilling: "We Have To Continue To Look At It."** According to the Bradenton Herald, "Mambi host Ninoska Pérez Castellón, who spoke with Scott in Miami. 'He's very much like what he projects on television, but in this particular election, I think people need more than an image and a promise because of the economic situation. He gives very standard answers, and voters are going to want more from him and all of the candidates.' Scott on offshore oil drilling: 'We have to continue to look at it.' On his business background: 'I know what it's like to balance a budget.' On social issues: 'Family values are very important to me.'" [Bradenton Herald, [7/25/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: "My Belief Is That We Have To Continue To Look At Offshore Drilling But We've Got To Do It Safely."** According to the Tampa Bay Times, "It made for an awkward moment as Scott completed the final segment of his six-day statewide bus tour. 'My belief is that we have to continue to look at offshore drilling but we've got to do it safely,' he told a business roundtable in Panama City. 'I think as a country and a state we've got to become as energy independent as we can.' Later, in an interview aboard his campaign bus, Scott clarified that it won't happen in the 'foreseeable future.' 'We are not going to drill now,' he said. 'It's not safe. It doesn't make any sense.'" [Tampa Bay Times, [7/26/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: "If At Some Point It Was Safe, We Can Look At Offshore Drilling."** According to the Palm Beach Post, "Florida Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Scott said Monday he agreed with President Obama's controversial drilling moratorium. But Scott would not support a constitutional ban of oil exploration within 10 miles of Florida's coastline. Asked whether he supported the moratorium during an interview aboard his campaign bus, he said yes, until drilling was safe. 'As a country we have to become energy independent,' Scott said. 'We ought to look at things like nuclear. And if at some point it was safe, we can look at offshore drilling.'" [Palm Beach Post, [7/26/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: "We Have To Continue To Look At Offshore Drilling, When We Can Do It Safely."** According to the Palm Beach Post, "After a high school student asked about making Florida greener, Scott said: 'We have to continue to look at offshore drilling, when we can do it safely.' He cited Ronald Reagan as a role model and painted himself as a leader who wouldn't be afraid to say no to more spending. In response to a question about a state program for people with disabilities, Scott said spending more might be a good idea, but only if spending could be cut elsewhere." [Palm Beach Post, [10/8/10](#)]

**Rick Scott Said He Would Ensure "That We Can Drill For Oil Safely."** According to a press release from Rick Scott for Florida, "Today, the Scott Campaign released the following statement in response to Alex Sink's energy speech in Delray Beach. Joe Kildea, Scott Campaign spokesperson, said, 'Just like the stimulus, Alex Sink is making a false claim that her leftist energy proposals will create jobs. From raising taxes on utilities to dependence on federal spending, when the rubber meets the road, Alex Sink is right in line with her fellow Obama liberals and promoting policies that will only cost more jobs. As governor, Rick will work toward energy independence from foreign oil with the expansion of nuclear power, the use of alternative fuels and ensure that we can drill for oil safely.'" [Press Release – Rick Scott For Florida, [9/7/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: "We Clearly Have A Lot To Learn About Drilling Safely, And We Should Figure Out What Went Wrong And How To Prevent This From Happening Before We Ever Consider Allowing More Drilling."** According to the Rick Scott for Florida FAQ page, "The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill is now the worst environmental disaster in the history of our nation, yet you say you're still in favor of offshore drilling. Has this disaster given you any second thoughts about offshore drilling? I live right on the beach, on the gulf side. This spill obviously concerns me deeply, and as Governor, dealing with the clean-up and the environmental and economic damage to our state is going to consume a lot of my time. We clearly have a lot to learn about drilling safely, and we should figure out what went wrong and how to prevent this from happening before we ever consider allowing more drilling." [FAQ Page – Rick Scott For Florida, [10/21/10](#)]

**Rick Scott Said We Need To "Drill Off Shore In An Environmentally Sound Way."** According to the Rick Scott for Florida issues page, "Energy Independence is not just critical to our economic security, it also is crucial to our national security. We must stop being dependent on other countries for oil. We need to build more nuclear plants, invest in alternative fuels and drill off shore in an environmentally sound way. But we must ensure that Florida's beaches are protected.' – Rick Scott" [Issues Page – Rick Scott For Florida, [10/21/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: "As We Explore The Expansion Of Domestic Drilling In The U.S. We Must Ensure That We Have Sound Policies In Place That Ensure The Companies Drilling Are Doing So In An Environmentally Sound Way And Adhering To The Strictest Of Safety Standards."** According to the Rick Scott for Florida issues page, "Rick will fight to

ensure that any future offshore drilling does not negatively impact Florida's beaches. As we explore the expansion of domestic drilling in the U.S. we must ensure that we have sound policies in place that ensure the companies drilling are doing so in an environmentally sound way and adhering to the strictest of safety standards." [Issues Page – Rick Scott For Florida, [10/21/10](#)]

**Rick Scott Said He Did Not Want Any Drilling Unless He Was “Very Comfortable It’s Going To Be Safe.”**

According to the Miami Herald, “Scott commended Graham for the report that blames the spill on a failed culture of safety at BP, Halliburton and Transocean, and a failure of government regulation. ‘We’re going to look over this,’ Scott said after meeting with Graham. ‘As you know, both of us care about this great state and we don’t want any damage, either environmental or economic damage, to happen anymore. We want to make sure we are also treated fairly.’ Scott supports oil drilling off Florida’s coast as long as it is done safely. Graham is a long-time opponent of drilling in both state and federal waters off Florida shores. ‘I don’t know what the governor’s position is on this,’ Graham said as he stood next to Scott before TV cameras. ‘If I could, I just ask him to keep an open mind and consider all the aspects of it.’ Scott said he agrees that ‘neither of us want any drilling unless we are very comfortable it’s going to be safe. We can’t afford the environmental damage or the economic damage to our state.’” [Miami Herald, [1/15/11](#)]

**Rick Scott: “We’re Not Going To Do Offshore Drilling If We Can’t Figure Out How To Do It Safely. But We’re Going To Figure Out How To Do It Safely. We Have To Look At Offshore Drilling.”** According to the Sarasota Herald Tribune, “Scott also left the door open on offshore oil drilling -- despite the recent BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. ‘We’re not going to do offshore drilling if we can’t figure out how to do it safely,’ Scott said. ‘But we’re going to figure out how to do it safely. We have to look at offshore drilling.’” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 1/20/11]

**Rick Scott: “Focus On Everything, From All The Alternative Fuels, All Those Things, To The Extent That They Make Sense, And Also Look At Offshore Drilling When We Know We Can Do It Safely.”** According to WJHG, “Now Crist and Sink are taking their case straight to the people; co-sponsoring a petition drive to put a ban on the 2012 ballot. The group is using the BP oil spill as its main argument for a constitutional ban. The spill threatened the state’s 65 billion dollar tourism industry for five months last summer. It led legislative leaders to promise not to pass drilling, but if a case is made in the future that drilling is safe Governor Rick Scott may be onboard. ‘Focus on everything, from all the alternative fuels, all those things, to the extent that they make sense, and also look at offshore drilling when we know we can do it safely.’” [WJHG, [2/10/11](#)]

**Rick Scott Called For A New State Energy Policy That Would Open The Door To Oil And Gas Drilling Off Florida’s Coast.** According to the Tampa Bay Times, “Senate President Mike Haridopolos joined the governor Friday in calling for a new state energy policy that will open the door to oil and gas drilling off Florida’s coast, new nuclear power and increased investment in renewable energy. Haridopolos spoke to a group of energy advocates, utility representatives, environmentalists and business groups in an off-the-record conference call on Friday hosted by the Florida chapter of the Houston-based Consumer Energy Alliance. In a March letter to the group’s Washington, D.C., executive director, Haridopolos asked them for ‘an independent report examining the current and projected energy needs of Florida well into the future’ that would be presented to him, the House speaker and the governor by the end of the year. The group plans a two-day conference in Orlando in July, which Haridopolos will attend, and hopes to have its draft report completed by September, said Matt Ubben, executive director of the organization. Several people who were on the call said Haridopolos wants an ‘all-energy solution’ that will explore both conventional and alternative energy, and noted that there is now distance between the oil spill and today.” [Tampa Bay Times, [6/25/11](#)]

**Rick Scott: “We Shouldn’t Do It Unless We Are Very Comfortable That We Can Do It Fairly - I Mean Safely - Because Look At What Happened Last Year With The BP Oil Spill And The Devastating Impact It Had On The Entire State.”** According to the Naples Daily News, “But on the other issue ... on just pure ... on whether we should be doing offshore drilling or not, what I said all along is that we shouldn’t do it unless we are very comfortable that we can do it fairly - I mean safely - because look at what happened last year with the BP oil spill and the devastating impact it had on the entire state. And didn’t really get oil; hardly any oil on our beaches, but it was devastating to the economy up there and it appears it impacted the whole state’s economy.” [Naples Daily News, [10/13/11](#)]

**Rick Scott On Offshore Drilling: “Right Now, We Ought To Be Careful.”** According to the Tampa Bay Times, “One worker asked about the prospect of Cuba drilling for offshore oil near Florida’s coast and if Florida should drill itself. ‘Right now, we ought to be careful,’ Scott answered. In his comments to reporters, Scott rattled off the basics of his 2012 plan: Reduce business taxes, repeal onerous regulations and require people receiving unemployment benefits to undergo some sort of job training.” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/17/11](#)]

## **RICK SCOTT OPPOSED A CONSTITUTIONAL BAN ON OFFSHORE DRILLING**

### **Scott Announced He Opposed A Ban On Offshore Oil Drilling And Would Continue To Search For Safe Ways To Continue The Practice**

**Rick Scott Said He Would Oppose A Constitutional Ban On Offshore Drilling.** According to Palm Beach Post, “Rick Scott, the Republican flooding TV airwaves in Florida, said today that he would oppose a constitutional ban on offshore drilling that Gov. Charlie Crist wants lawmakers to put on the November ballot. ‘We need to protect our beaches, break our dependency on foreign oil and hold oil companies accountable when there are problems,’ Scott said. ‘As governor, I’ll look to strike a balance between responsible exploration that takes every precaution and is far enough from our shores while holding oil companies accountable for their mistakes.’” [Palm Beach Post, [5/11/10](#)]

### **Rick Scott Said He Was In Favor Of Offshore Drilling And That It Is “Not Realistic” To Ban The Practice.**

According to the Tampa Bay Times, “Scott, a thin balding man, was dressed in a dark blue suit and spoke quickly. Part of his speech was biographical, but he also highlighted his stance on immigration (‘If you’re not legal, you should leave our state.’), taxes, government regulation and guns. He also said he is in favor of offshore drilling, noting it’s ‘not realistic’ to ban the practice.” [Tampa Bay Times, [6/10/10](#)]

**Rick Scott Opposed A Moratorium On Offshore Oil Drilling; Said “Never Is A Long Time. If We Figure Out Some Day That It’s Safe I Think We Ought To Look At It.”** According to the Tampa Bay Times, “State law currently forbids drilling within 10 miles of the coast but state lawmakers have tried numerous times in recent years to lift the ban. Scott said he supports President Barack Obama’s moratorium on drilling in the Gulf until new safety measures are developed. But he said he opposes a constitutional ban on drilling in state waters. ‘Never is a long time,’ he said. ‘If we figure out some day that it’s safe I think we ought to look at it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [7/26/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: “It’s A Naïve, Knee-Jerk Reaction To Call For A Ban On Drilling.”** According to the Rick Scott for Florida FAQ page, “But the disaster doesn’t change the fact we need to become energy independent. We need to continue developing alternative solutions like wind and solar, but let’s face it, there are vast reserves of oil off our coast – and the world knows it. Cuba is selling drilling rights to countries like China within 45 miles of our state. It’s a naïve, knee-jerk reaction to call for a ban on drilling. That’s just the typical response from the political establishment reading which way the wind is blowing and trying to score some cheap political points without really having a solution to our energy problems.” [FAQ Page – Rick Scott For Florida, [10/21/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: “Calling For A Special Session To Pass A Constitutional Amendment To Ban Drilling Is A Political Stunt That Will Cost Taxpayers Money We Don’t Have. A Constitutional Amendment Is Not Needed We Already Have A Moratorium In Place.”** According to the Rick Scott for Florida FAQ page, “Calling for a special session to pass a constitutional amendment to ban drilling is a political stunt that will cost taxpayers money we don’t have. A constitutional amendment is not needed we already have a moratorium in place.” [FAQ Page – Rick Scott For Florida, [10/21/10](#)]

## **RICK SCOTT OPPOSED OBAMA’S 2010 MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE DRILLING**

### **Scott: “I Absolutely Oppose What They’ve Done”**

**Rick Scott Opposed The Obama Administration’s Plans To Pursue Offshore Drilling Near Florida; Said “I Absolutely Oppose What They’ve Done.”** According to Gannett News Service, “Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson and Republican Gov.-elect Rick Scott split on the Obama administration’s announcement Wednesday that it will drop plans to pursue offshore drilling near the state. ‘I’m glad the White House is listening to the people of Florida and has decided not to allow any new drilling in the eastern Gulf,’ Nelson said. ‘It’s an enormous victory for the state.’ Before the BP oil spill, President Barack Obama had proposed allowing drilling within 125 miles of Florida’s Gulf Coast and on the Atlantic Coast from Delaware south to mid-Florida. Scott said it would have been more reasonable for the administration to ask if there were logical ways to pursue offshore drilling, ‘rather than saying point-blank we’re not going to do it.’ ‘I absolutely oppose what they’ve done,’ he said.” [Gannett News Service, 12/1/10]

### **Rick Scott Called For Safe Drilling Options “Rather Than Saying Point-Blank We’re Not Going To Do It.”**

According to the Orlando Sentinel, “Republican Gov.-elect Rick Scott was stunned and unhappy about Wednesday’s announcement. ‘I was not contacted. I don’t think that Gov. [Charlie] Crist was contacted,’ Scott said while making rounds on

Capitol Hill. ‘I absolutely oppose what they’ve done.’ Scott called for a path toward energy independence that includes safe drilling operations ‘rather than saying point-blank we’re not going to do it.’” [Orlando Sentinel, [12/1/10](#)]

**Rick Scott Said He’d Want To Talk To Local Communities About What They’d Prefer “Rather Than Just Make A Decision For The Entire State.”** According to the Miami Herald, “He said he ‘absolutely’ opposes the decision to pull back. ‘I believe we have to become energy independent. Offshore drilling is an option.’ He wouldn’t put a number on where he’d want to see a ban on drilling off Florida’s coastline: ‘I’d want to wait and do more research.’ He said he’d want to talk to local communities about what they’d prefer ‘rather than just make a decision for the entire state.’” [Miami Herald, [12/1/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: “You Don’t Put In A Moratorium. Let’s Figure Out How We Can Do It Safely Because We Can Not Afford To Mess Up Our Beaches Or Our Economy.”** According to a transcript of the Situation Room, “BLITZER: One final issue for Florida, offshore oil drilling. As you know, the Obama administration said no offshore oil drilling for seven years off of Florida’s coast. You don’t like that decision? SCOTT: First off, I wish they would have called me. They didn’t call me or Governor Crist. I believe they should have called us and tell us what their thinking is. We need to become energy independent. We can’t do drilling until we do it safely. You don’t put in a moratorium. Let’s figure out how we can do it safely because we can not afford to mess up our beaches or our economy. But I believe the ingenuity of Americans, we will come up with a way to do that.” [Transcript – Situation Room, [12/2/10](#)]

**Rick Scott: “Whenever We Do It, We Will Do It Safely So We Don’t Mess Up Our Beaches And Our Economy.”** According to a transcript of the Situation Room, “BLITZER: You’re willing to take a chance despite the pristine beaches along the Florida coast? SCOTT: Whenever we do it, we will do it safely so we don’t mess up our beaches and our economy.” [Transcript – Situation Room, [12/2/10](#)]

## 2011: Scott Supported Drilling In The Everglades Until He Saw It Was Politically Unpopular

### SCOTT SUPPORTED DRILLING IN THE EVERGLADES BUT LATER REVERSED HIS STANCE WHEN HE FOUND IT TO BE UNPOPULAR WITH VOTERS

#### Scott Supported Drilling In The Everglades...

**Rick Scott Said He Could Support A “Cautious” Amount Of Drilling In The Everglades.** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “Gov. Rick Scott on Tuesday waded into the bubbling controversy over Florida’s Everglades by saying that he could potentially support drilling in the famed swampland. Instead of joining with other Florida politicians who are dead set against the idea, Scott said that he could support a ‘cautious’ amount of drilling. He made his remarks during a question and answer session before members of The Economic Club of Florida. ‘With regard to the Everglades, I think we have to be very cautious if there’s going to be any more drilling. It’s my understanding at least, we haven’t had any problems in the Everglades to date,’ Scott said. Scott, who lived in Collier County before becoming governor, noted that there was already a small amount of oil production that has been going on for decades in the Everglades.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 9/6/11]

**Rick Scott: “We Already Have Oil Wells In The Everglades. There’s A Road In Naples That’s Called ‘Oil Well Road.’ So, We Already Have Oil Drilling.”** According to the Associated Press State & Local Wire, “‘We already have oil wells in the Everglades. There’s a road in Naples that’s called ‘Oil Well Road,’ Scott said. ‘So, we already have oil drilling. We’ve done it I think since 1943...I think first off people are very shocked that we have it already. They don’t know that.’ Scott’s openness to drilling puts him closer to the position of Minnesota U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann who said she could support drilling during a presidential campaign swing through Florida last month.” [Associated Press State & Local Wire, 9/6/11]

#### ...But Reversed His Stance When He Found There Was No Appetite For Offshore Oil Drilling In Florida

**Rick Scott: “There’s Not Going To Be Any Drilling In The Everglades.”** According to the Naples Daily News, “Daily News: What are the prospects for drilling for oil in the Everglades and elsewhere? Scott: I don’t think ... there’s not going to be any drilling in the Everglades. You know we have some in ... what is it, the ...? Daily News: Big Cypress. Scott: Yes, Big Cypress. So there’s some there. But there’s not going to be any drilling in the Everglades ... First off, right now our biggest

issue is the drilling off Cuba. So right now, if you ask me where our biggest risk is, it's to make sure that - and we've focused on it - but make sure that the drilling is done properly and that we have a plan if there is a blowout." [Naples Daily News, [10/13/11](#)]

**Rick Scott On Offshore Drilling: "I Don't Think There Is An Appetite For That."** According to the Pensacola News Journal, "» Offshore oil drilling: He talked about the need to look at natural gas and electric vehicles if the costs are right. But he said he did not want to see drilling unless 'we can be assured that it can be done safely.' In the Legislature, he said, 'I don't think there is an appetite for that.'" [Pensacola News Journal, 12/21/11]

**Rick Scott: "There Doesn't Appear To Be Any Interest Right Now In Offshore Drilling."** According to the Sarasota Herald Tribune, "Scott told the business leaders in Bradenton on Thursday that he does not see any offshore oil drilling expansion in the immediate future. 'There doesn't appear to be any interest right now in offshore drilling,' Scott said. 'One of the issues you have is the concern over what it would do to tourism if you had another oil spill.' Scott also cited the importance of the state's military mission line in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, which bars oil rigs to prevent them from interfering with military training exercises." [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 7/22/13]

## 2017: Scott Failed To Oppose The Trump Administration's Move To Expand Offshore Oil Drilling

### RICK SCOTT DID NOT COMMENT ON TRUMP'S PUSH FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING...

**Rick Scott Declined To Comment On Trump's Proposal For Offshore Drilling.** According to the Tampa Bay Times, "Democratic and Republican politicians in Florida have expressed concern about the Trump administration's renewed push for offshore oil drilling, but two high-profile figures are noticeably quiet. 'I haven't seen his proposal,' Gov. Rick Scott told the Tampa Bay Times on Tuesday, declining to say more on the issue. We asked Sen. Marco Rubio, too, and he's refused comment. -- Times staff writer Malena Carollo contributed." [Tampa Bay Times, [5/2/17](#)]

**Huffington Post: Rick Scott "Refused to Join" Nearly All East Coast Governors Urging Trump to Continue The Ban On Offshore Oil & Gas Leases.** According to the Huffington Post, "In August 2017, when nearly all East Coast governors — including Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) — publicly urged the Trump administration to continue the federal ban on oil and gas leasing off their shores, Scott refused to join them." [Huffington Post, [1/10/18](#)]

- **Under Scott, Florida Was The Only State Not To Take A Position When Interior Dept. Officials Presented The New Drilling Plan.** According to the Huffington Post, "When Interior Department officials briefed congressional staff on the administration's new drilling plan this Monday, they included a map showing which state governments had submitted official comments on the plan when they were asked in July. Two states did not respond. But only the Scott administration did not take a position." [Huffington Post, [1/10/18](#)]

## 2018: Scott Opposed Trump's Decision To Expand Offshore Drilling After The Decision Was Announced

### SCOTT OPPOSED TRUMP'S DECISION TO EXPAND OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

**The U.S. Interior Department Announced It Would Open The Largest Area On Record To Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling, Including In Previously Protected Parts Of The Atlantic.** According to Reuters, "The U.S. Interior Department on Thursday will open up the largest area on record to offshore oil and gas drilling in a new five-year leasing plan, including previously protected parts of the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific oceans, sources familiar with the proposal said. The move dovetails with President Donald Trump's promise to expand domestic energy production, but will come over the objections of environmentalists, state officials, and some business groups worried about spills and coastal tourism." [Reuters, [1/4/18](#)]

**A Scott Spokesman Signaled His Opposition To The Move And Said The Governor Was “Aggressively Fighting To Protect Florida’s Environment.”** According to Reuters, “Ahead of Thursday’s announcement, lawmakers from both parties, environmental groups, and local business leaders along the Atlantic coast said they are opposed to any effort to open up their coastlines to drilling rigs, citing environmental risks and threats to their lucrative tourism industries. A spokesman for Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott said in a statement on Wednesday that he ‘is aggressively fighting to protect Florida’s environment by proposing more than \$3.8 billion to preserve it.’” [Reuters, [1/4/18](#)]

**Scott: “...It Is Likely That The Department Of The Interior Will Consider Florida As A Potential State For Offshore Oil Drilling – Which Is Something I Oppose In Florida.”** According to Florida Politics, “Gov. Rick Scott enjoyed lunch with President Donald Trump on New Year’s Eve, but Scott is finding President Trump’s position on offshore oil drilling hard to digest. ‘Based on media reports, it is likely that the Department of the Interior will consider Florida as a potential state for offshore oil drilling – which is something I oppose in Florida,’ Scott said.” [Florida Politics, [1/4/18](#)]

## **SCOTT PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO DISCUSS CONCERNS**

**Scott “I Have Already Asked To Immediately Meet With Secretary Zinke To Discuss The Concerns I Have With This Plan And The Crucial Need To Remove Florida From Consideration.”** According to Florida Politics, “I have already asked to immediately meet with Secretary Zinke to discuss the concerns I have with this plan and the crucial need to remove Florida from consideration,’ Scott added. ‘My top priority is to ensure that Florida’s natural resources are protected, which is why I proposed \$1.7 billion for the environment in this year’s budget,’ Scott continued.” [Florida Politics, [1/4/18](#)]