

## TIMELINE:

# OIL AND GAS LEASING IN BRISTOL BAY

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## U.S. ARCTIC PROGRAM

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### 1986

Despite strong opposition from local villages and residents, Native tribes, fishing organizations, conservation groups and the state of Alaska, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service **opens Bristol Bay to potential oil and gas exploration** and development with Lease Sale 92.<sup>1</sup>

### 1995

The Interior Department **reaches a settlement to buy back leases** that oil companies purchased under Lease Sale 92. The agency calls its action "landmark protection" for "fragile offshore resources."<sup>2</sup>

### 2003

Congress **removes Bristol Bay from the OCS annual moratorium.**

### 2010

On March 31, President Barack Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announce a decision to **reinstate protection from offshore drilling for Bristol Bay.** The executive withdrawal removes the area from leasing programs through 2017.<sup>4</sup>

### 1989

After the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Congress adds the North Aleutian Basin, comprising Bristol Bay and the southeastern Bering Sea, to the nearly nationwide **annual moratorium prohibiting new outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas development.**

### 1998

President Bill Clinton **adds the North Aleutian Basin, including Bristol Bay, to earlier executive leasing withdrawals** issued by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 for California, southern Florida, Washington, Oregon and North Atlantic states and extends the duration of all such executive protections until June 30, 2012.

### 2007

On January 7, President George W. Bush **lifts the executive withdrawal for Bristol Bay**, its last layer of protection. In April, the Minerals Management Service announces plans to hold a lease sale in Bristol Bay as early as 2011.<sup>3</sup>

### 2012

Members of the 112th U.S. Congress introduce seven bills and amendments that include provisions that would supersede the Obama administration's executive withdrawal and **mandate a lease sale in the North Aleutian Basin before 2017.**<sup>5</sup> **None of these bills or amendments pass.**

<sup>1</sup>Minerals Management Service. 1985. Proposed North Aleutian Basin lease sale, sale 92: final environmental impact statement, MMS-85-0001. [http://www.alaska.boemre.gov/ref/EIS%20EA/N\\_Aleutian\\_Basin\\_FEIS\\_92/mms85\\_0052Volume1.pdf](http://www.alaska.boemre.gov/ref/EIS%20EA/N_Aleutian_Basin_FEIS_92/mms85_0052Volume1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior. 31 July 1995. Press Release: Landmark Protections Announced for Fragile Offshore Resources. [www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/Press-Releases/1995/50054.aspx](http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/Press-Releases/1995/50054.aspx)

<sup>3</sup>Minerals Management Service. April 2007. Proposed Final Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012. <http://www.boemre.gov/5-year/PDFs/MMSProposedFinalProgram2007-2012.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>Office of the Press Secretary, White House. 31 March 2010. Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior: Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition.

<sup>5</sup>H.R. 6802 (25 July 2012), H.R. 3408 (10 February 2012), H.R.3410 (1 February 2012), H.R. 1231 (11 May 2011), H.R. 1230 (5 May 2011), S.1813-S.A. 1535 (12 March 2012), S.1813-S.A. 1713, (17 February 2012).