



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
INSTITUTE**

API Headquarters
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 22505
Sacramento, CA
95822

Street Address:
1122 S Street
Sacramento, CA
95814

916.447-3085
1.800.348.7387
Fax 916.447-3070
info@api4animals.org
www.api4animals.org

December 2, 2004

Superintendent
Padre Island National Seashore
P.O. 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of the Animal Protection Institute (API), and our 85,000 members of whom 3,000 reside in Texas, I urge you not to allow oil and gas interests to gamble with the welfare of our nation's marine species.

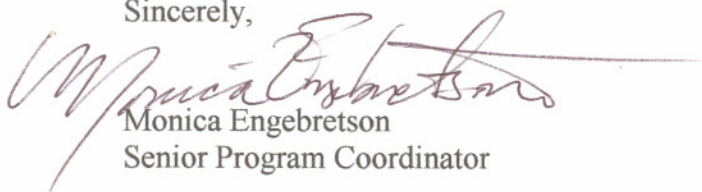
As you know, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle is the rarest sea turtle in the world. While studies indicate that commercial fishing especially shrimp fishing is a leading reason for sea turtle decline, disturbance from offshore oil drilling also poses a threat to these sensitive animals.

In addition, for many marine species there is very little known about population parameters therefore until more species specific research is conducted it may be impossible to determine whether parameters are changed in response to seismic surveys and other activities associated with drilling. In light of this, we feel that currently no mitigation measures exist that will adequately protect marine mammals from the hazards of drilling and oil extraction.

API encourages you to do everything in your power to bring an end to the drilling of gas wells on the Padre Island National Seashore and to encourage the administration to buy out those who own the mineral rights. Such actions would be consistent with the protection goals of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Park System and the Marine Turtle Protection Act signed earlier this year by President Bush.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns on this issue that is of great importance to API, our members, and to many Americans.

Sincerely,


Monica Engebretson
Senior Program Coordinator

API's
PRIMATE
SANCTUARY
Dilley, TX
www.snowmonkey.org

