

SAVE OUR LEATHERBACKS OPERATION (S.O.L.O.)

A Non Profit Public Charity Approved by IRS Code 501(c)(3) and Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act

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February 11, 2007

**The Superintendent
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
P. O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, TX. 78480-1300**

Sent to FAX (361) 949-8023) and by Mail.

**Re: Opposition to Further Oil or Mineral Exploration OR
Drilling in the Padre Island National Seashore**

Dear Sir:

We are informed that your Federal Agency is prepared to provide a petroleum exploration company, BNP, additional permits to drill three (3) additional gas well sites in the Padre Island National Seashore protected preserve. We understand a some times dual role of the Park Service in accommodating a "grandfather agreement" (albeit probably not legally enforceable) with previous owners of a property to deliver to them latent compensation of mineral rights from or within/beneath the lands once privately owned.

Considering this and the planned permitting of future gas/mineral/oil explorations, we take serious interest and concerns with the continuing of this begin practice of the Park Service. It is past time for ALL Federal Agencies to deny the moneyed interests of business and turn to actual real time PROTECTION of our marine resources which nest/spawn and grow on lands as Padre Island which are held in the National TRUST for all Americans.

Thanks to environmental efforts and activities of numerous environmental groups over 25+ years, the Olive Ridley and the Atlantic Leatherback sea

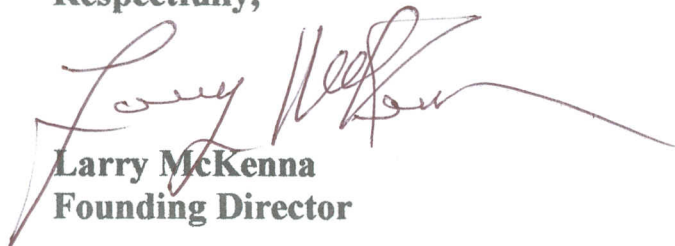
turtles (listed as **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED** by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and National Resources (ICUN, 2004) are making a slow resurgence into US waters and beaches. The United States is a participating signatory to this World Body and therefore is obligated to cease any actions on Federal property which would further endanger these species from an even more rapid road to extinction.

The Olive Ridley and the Leatherback turtles are making a very slow return to Padre Island to nest and mate off shore 5 or 6 times a season. In 2006, 64 Kemp's Ridley turtle nests were observed on Padre Island; an environmental record. A fewer number of Leatherback nests were observed; but the numbers are also on the increase ON the beaches of Padre Island. To permit ANY exploration or drilling which would involve heavy equipment transiting the sands and beaches/tidal waters of Padre Island is in **DIRECT** contravention of your charter and responsibilities under the applicable Federal laws and the ICUN Convention on Endangered species.

We therefore call upon you and the National Park Service as an entire entity directly responsible for implementing the environmental statutes to **STOP** and **DENY** any and all further plans of explorations and/or drilling. **YOU** are entrusted with this obligation **AND** responsibility on behalf of all Americans.

EXTINCTION, Sir...Is FOREVER.

Respectfully,


Larry McKenna
Founding Director

