



## **Summary of Bald Head Island Property Owner Survey on Offshore Energy May 2015**

### Background

In order to understand the opinions of Bald Head Island (BHI) property owners on several issues related to offshore energy development, Bald Head Association (BHA) emailed the link to an electronic survey in late April 2015 to approximately 1,500 property owners within its jurisdictional area. The Stage II Association and Middle Island Property Owners Association also emailed the link to their members reaching owners of about 600 additional Bald Head Island properties. The survey remained open for one week. A total of 350 individuals responded – a response rate of approximately 17%.

### Overview

Overall, property owners are opposed to offshore energy exploration activities off of North Carolina's shores. Specifically, more than half (56%) oppose the installation of wind turbine farms within 10-15 nautical miles from BHI, while 20% support it. Most comments reflected a general support for alternative forms of energy production but property owners believed the proposed location to have a negative impact on North Carolina tourism and were concerned about potential damage to the environment and wildlife. Many stated their preference to move the turbines farther from land due to concerns about noise and light pollution.

Clearly, there exists an opportunity to educate BHI property owners on the impact of seismic surveying activities. Only 14% were informed on seismic surveying, while the largest majority (48%) admitted they were somewhat informed and more than a third (38%) claimed they were 'not at all' informed. At the same time, more than two-thirds (65%) oppose seismic surveying and an additional 22% stated they needed more information to form an opinion. Many property owners stated in their comments that they opposed seismic surveying until they were convinced it would not have a negative impact on the ocean or harm marine wildlife, particularly sea turtles.

More property owners claimed to be familiar with offshore oil/gas exploration than the seismic surveying. More than half (58%) claimed they were somewhat familiar, while nearly equal numbers said they were very familiar (21%) or not at all familiar (21%).

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of property owners oppose oil/gas exploration activities as close as 50 nautical miles from shore. About 14% supports it. When activities are moved 20 miles closer to shore, however, the number opposing those activities increases to nearly three-fourths (73%) and those supporting it drops to 8%. Nearly one-fifth of property owners either need more information to form an opinion (14%) or are undecided (4%). Numerous property owners indicated a concern for damage to tourism and the environment.

Strong opposition remains for a deep-water port located in the Southport/Wilmington area. More than three-fourths (77%) oppose it while only 7% support it. Most respondents were concerned about beach erosion that would occur if the navigation channel were deepened and/or widened to accommodate an expanded port, as well as increased shipping traffic.

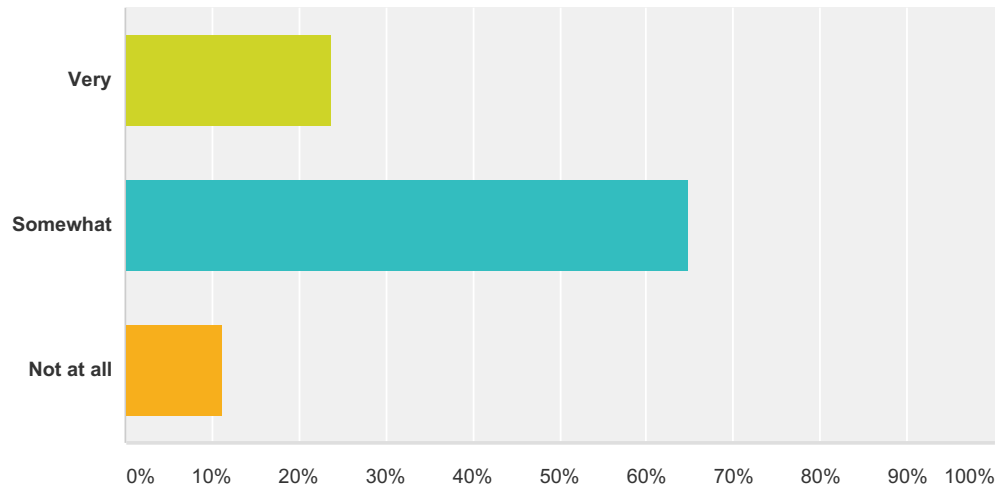
### Questions

Questions asked of the respondents were:

1. How informed are you on wind energy development off the coast of North Carolina?
2. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposes that two wind turbine farms (each containing up to 250 wind turbines) be installed 10-15 nautical miles offshore within the view of Bald Head Island. What is your position on this proposal?
3. How informed are you on seismic surveying off the coast of North Carolina?
4. BOEM proposes conducting seismic surveying as close as 3 nautical miles from N.C.'s shore to determine how much oil/gas may be present along the Outer Continental Shelf. What is your position?
5. How informed are you on oil/gas exploration off the coast of North Carolina?
6. BOEM proposes conducting oil/gas exploration activities as close as 50 nautical miles from North Carolina's shore. What is your position?
7. NC Governor Pat McCrory proposes to reduce that buffer to 30 nautical miles from N.C.'s shore. What is your position?
8. What is your position on a deep-water port being located in the Southport/Wilmington area to support any land-based infrastructure for oil and gas processing and transport, as well as rig transit, safety and accident mitigation?
9. Do you have any other comments, questions or concerns about offshore energy development?
10. Are you a member of Bald Head Association?

### Q1 How informed are you on wind energy development off the coast of North Carolina?

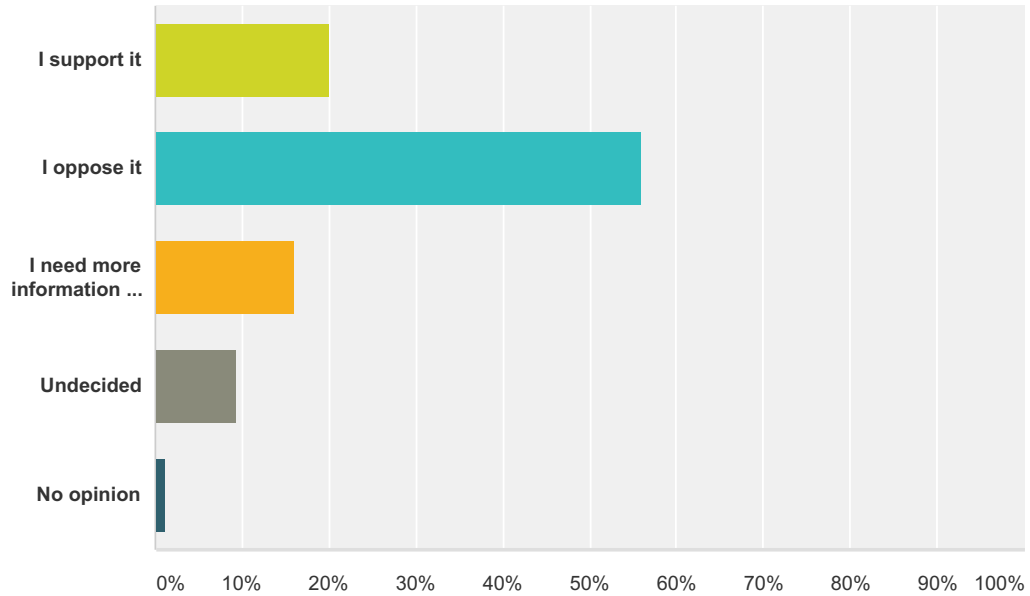
Answered: 346 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Very	23.70% 82
Somewhat	65.03% 225
Not at all	11.27% 39
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>

**Q2 The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposes that two wind turbine farms (each containing up to 250 wind turbines) be installed 10-15 nautical miles offshore within view of Bald Head Island. What is your position this proposal?**

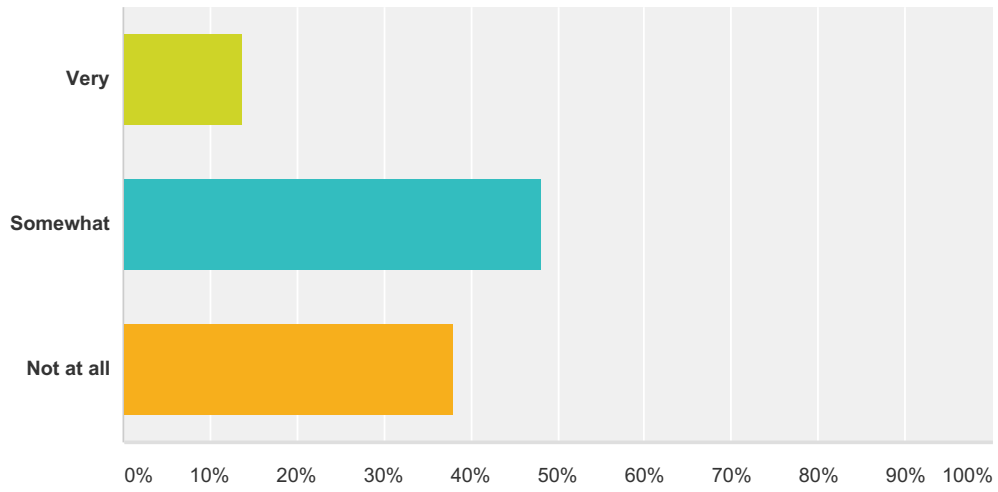
Answered: 348 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
I support it	20.11% 70
I oppose it	56.03% 195
I need more information to form an opinion	16.09% 56
Undecided	9.48% 33
No opinion	1.15% 4
<b>Total Respondents: 348</b>	

### Q3 How informed are you on seismic surveying off the coast of North Carolina?

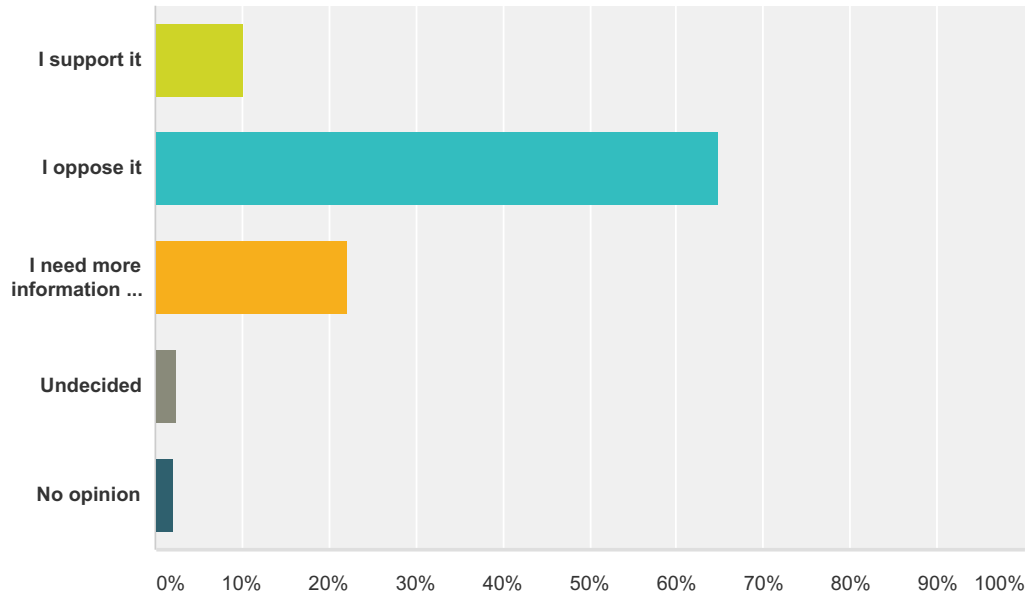
Answered: 347 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Very	13.83% 48
Somewhat	48.13% 167
Not at all	38.04% 132
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>

**Q4 BOEM proposes conducting seismic surveying as close as 3 nautical miles from N.C.'s shore to determine how much oil/gas may be present along the Outer Continental Shelf. What is your position?**

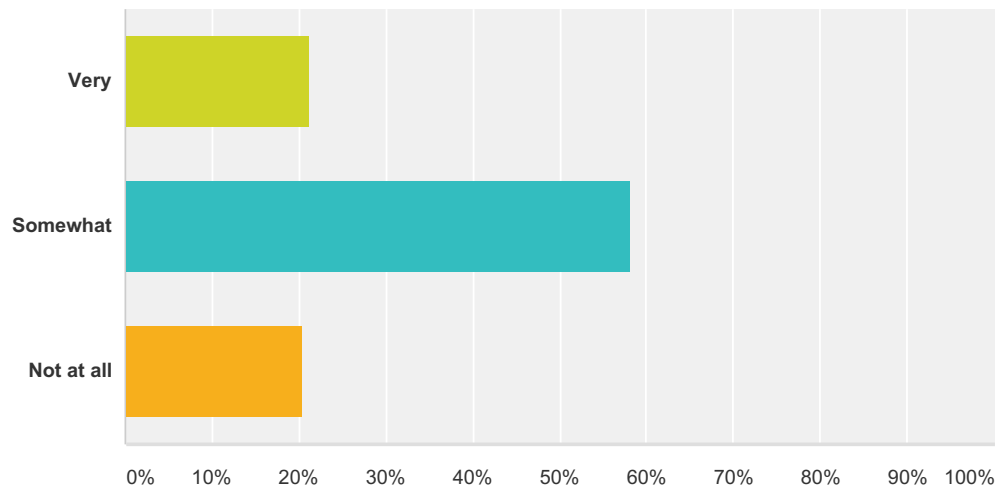
Answered: 345 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
I support it	10.14% 35
I oppose it	64.93% 224
I need more information to form an opinion	22.03% 76
Undecided	2.61% 9
No opinion	2.03% 7
<b>Total Respondents: 345</b>	

### Q5 How informed are you on oil/gas exploration off the coast of North Carolina?

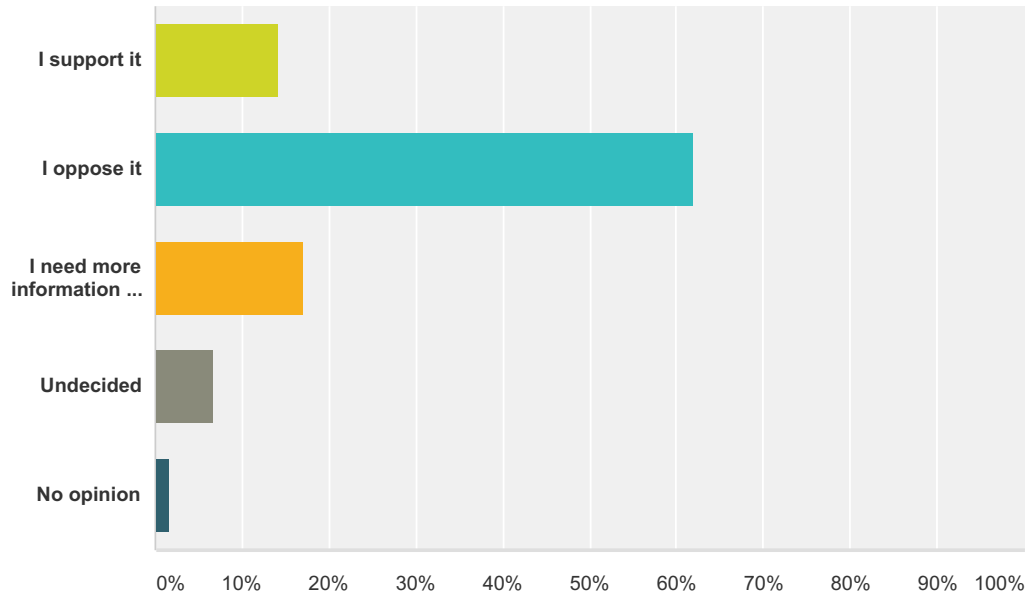
Answered: 343 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Very	21.28% 73
Somewhat	58.31% 200
Not at all	20.41% 70
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>

### Q6 BOEM proposes conducting oil/gas exploration activities as close as 50 nautical miles from North Carolina's shore. What is your position?

Answered: 344 Skipped: 6

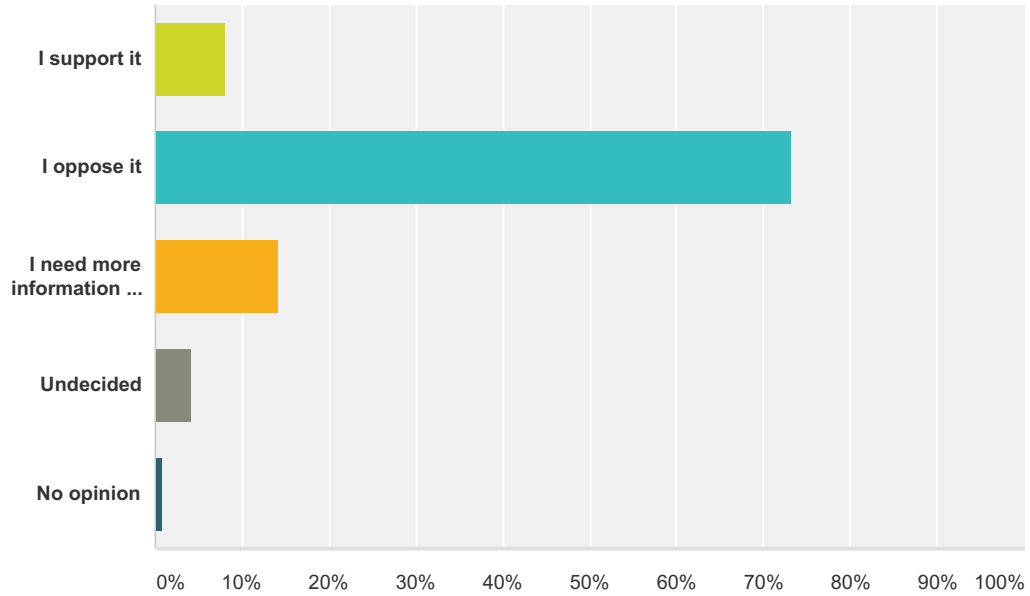


Answer Choices	Responses
I support it	14.24% 49
I oppose it	61.92% 213
I need more information to form an opinion	17.15% 59
Undecided	6.69% 23
No opinion	1.74% 6
<b>Total Respondents: 344</b>	



### Q7 NC Governor Pat McCrory proposes to reduce that buffer to 30 nautical miles from N.C.'s shore.What is your position?

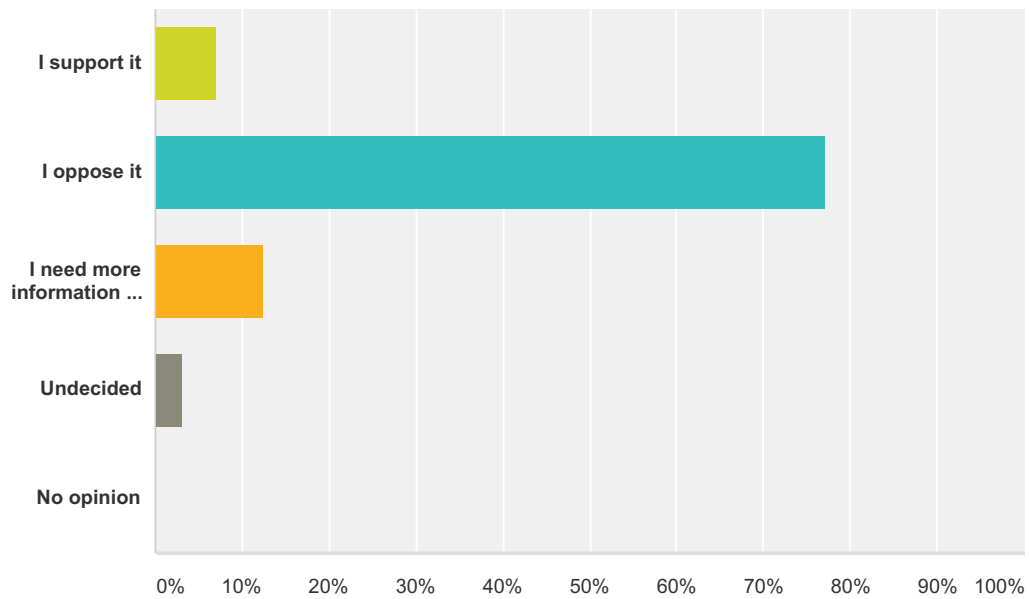
Answered: 343 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
I support it	8.16% 28
I oppose it	73.18% 251
I need more information to form an opinion	14.29% 49
Undecided	4.08% 14
No opinion	0.87% 3
<b>Total Respondents: 343</b>	

**Q8 What is your position on a deep-water port being located in the Southport/Wilmington area to support any land-based infrastructure for oil and gas processing and transport, as well as rig transit, safety and accident mitigation?**

Answered: 343 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
I support it	7.00% 24
I oppose it	77.26% 265
I need more information to form an opinion	12.54% 43
Undecided	3.21% 11
No opinion	0.29% 1
<b>Total Respondents: 343</b>	

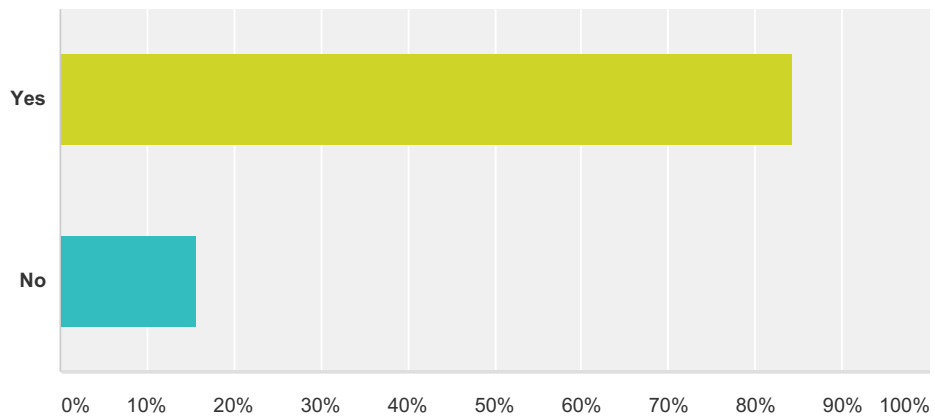
**Q9 Do you have any other comments, questions or concerns about offshore energy development?**

Answered: 87 Skipped: 263

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### Q10 Are you a member of Bald Head Association?

Answered: 338 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	84.32% 285
No	15.68% 53
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>