

Statement

GREENPEACE

New leases in U.S. Beaufort Sea inconsistent with U.S.–Canada Arctic agreements and climate commitments

15 March 2016 (Ottawa) – In response to the announcement by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of its new five-year offshore oil and gas draft program which includes future leasing options in the Beaufort Sea, Greenpeace Arctic Campaigner Farrah Khan said:

“Just days after the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation [asked the federal government to conduct a Regional Strategic Environment Assessment](#) for oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea that would include scientific and traditional knowledge, the U.S. government announced today new oil explorations leases in this region.”

“The U.S. and Canada recently recommitted to a shared responsibility to conserve the rich biodiversity of the Arctic and to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It seems both are being ignored with this lease announcement. We know that oil spills don't stop at the border and an oil spill on any side of the invisible boundary in the Beaufort Sea would have catastrophic environmental, human and economic consequences.”

“These new leases pose a threat to the Arctic environment and are inconsistent with the recent U.S-Canada joint announcement on Arctic protection as well as global climate change commitments. As global temperatures continue to break records, our governments should be doubling-down on climate action, not backpedaling just a month before they plan to sign the Paris Agreement.”

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For more information:

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