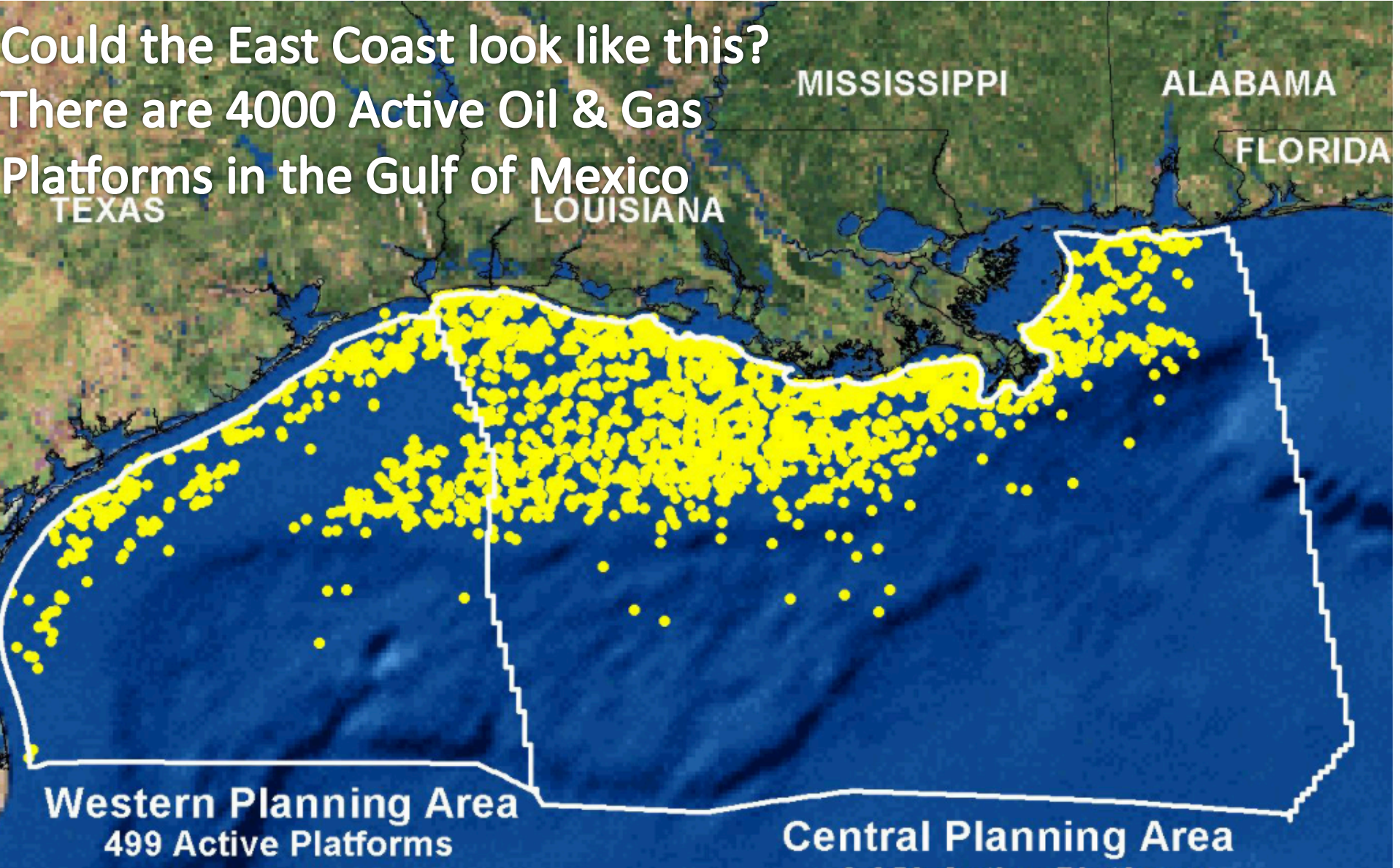


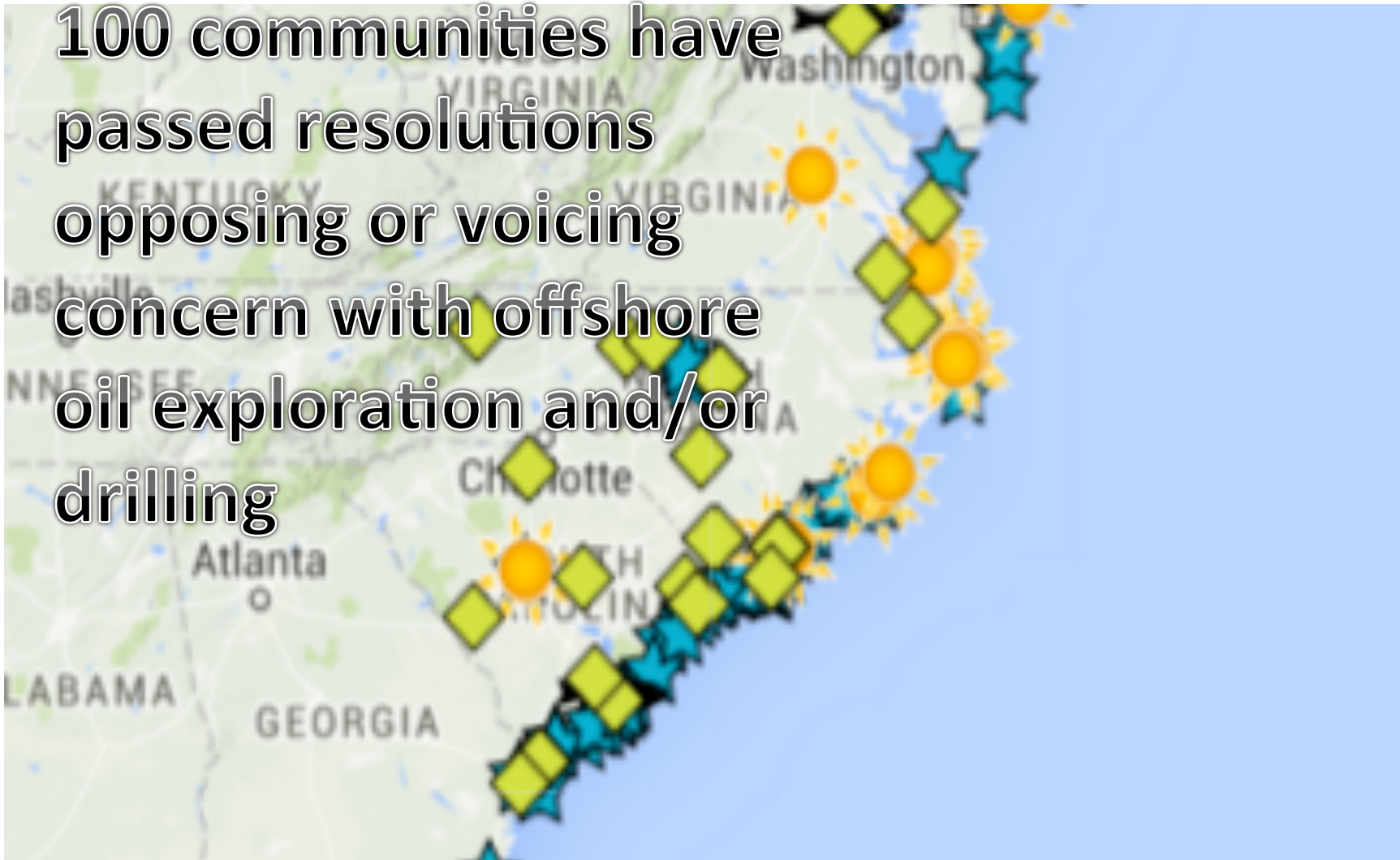
The environmental and economic impacts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico are still being felt 5 years on. Given the long-term damage, folks are understandably concerned about drilling off the east coast. No one wants to see a catastrophe like that again. And there is only one effective way to avoid it: Prohibit drilling.

Could the East Coast look like this?
There are 4000 Active Oil & Gas
Platforms in the Gulf of Mexico



Public opposition to offshore drilling is growing. In addition to 100 members of Congress, more than 650 state and local officials and some 750 business interests have taken a stance against offshore oil exploration and/or development.

[See interactive map.](#)



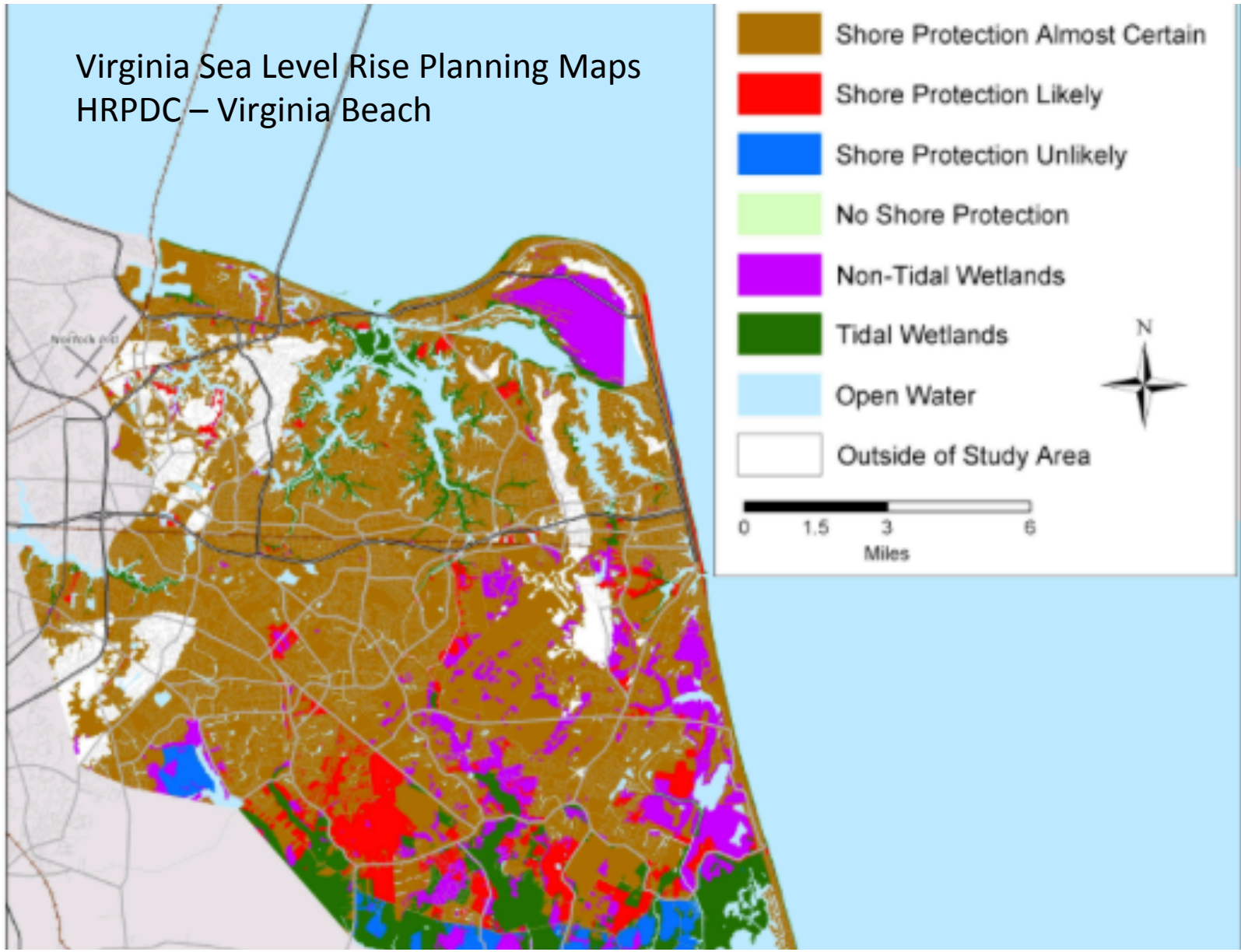
It's not just the potential impacts of a spill that are worrisome. The consequences of exploration and the consumption of extracted fuels also need to be considered. Seismic testing could affect recreational and commercial fisheries as well as marine mammal populations that draw tourists. Sought species may relocate, or worse, suffer injury.



Gulf Oil Spill Implicated in Dolphin Die-Off - Since 2010, 1160 cetaceans have stranded in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. A body of evidence indicates that the culprit behind the Unusual Mortality Event is oil released from the BP Macondo blowout.

If you consider the climate effects associated with fossil fuel combustion, it would appear reckless and contradictory to approve drilling as rising seas inundate our shores.

Virginia Sea Level Rise Planning Maps
HRPDC – Virginia Beach



In public documents, the City recognizes climate science and the relationship between fossil fuel emissions, rising seas and recurrent flooding. To address concerns, the City has set goals to reduce its carbon footprint and support clean energy. The City is also amassing work-hours and spending fiscal resources to develop adaption and mitigation strategies for sea level rise. Residents are also struggling to absorb increased insurance premiums as properties shift into newly created flood zones.



City of VB Environment 2040 Report

Environmentally, for many, their lifetime endeavor will be to develop a sustainable community, alleviate rising sea levels, mitigate coastal erosion, discover alternative fossil fuel energy options, and feed a growing local and global population.



VISION

The City of Virginia Beach leads the nation in energy stewardship through education and conservation and supports the development and production of clean energy sources.

We asked the community...
 "What is your vision for our ENERGY?"
 The bigger the word the more we heard it!



promote alternative energy

support conventional energy

increase energy efficiency

GOALS

- 19** We will use energy efficiently, both the City government and the community.
- 20** We will support the research and production of clean energy and products.



Offshore wind turbines

Community Comments...

"The City should encourage, and possibly incentivize, Energy Star compliance for all buildings."

Environmental Stewardship Focus Group - February 7th, 2012

"Reward residential home efficiency with tax incentives."

Steering Committee - January 14th, 2012

There's no question that resilient strategies are needed for future climate adjustments, but **many efforts are merely treating the symptoms of a serious condition. It's time to start addressing the disease directly** by avoiding carbon when possible. We are not in a "if you don't use it, you lose it" situation. Fossil deposits will remain in place. Given the current climate conundrum of accelerating sea level rise coupled with great economic return on our natural capital, clean and sustainable energy sources should be our first priority.



Beach Replenishment Project, Virginia Beach – Cost \$13.7 million – Image: US ACOE

Lastly, I'd like to remind Council of the resistance to fossil resources that is now commonly featured in major news outlets. Drawing world attention to arctic drilling, activists this summer were observed dangling from bridges and barricading waterways.

Kayaktivists in Seattle



This is not a phenomena unique to the West Coast. Similar public demonstrations are taking place in the region.



Float for the Coast, Ocean City, Maryland
August 14, 2015

If drilling moves forward, more organized activity is likely to find its way to our doorstep. That's your silver lining, if you want to attract passionate protesters instead of happy tourists to our public spaces.



Hands Across the Sand, VBVA