

**Pec Direzione**



Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare – D.G. Valutazioni e Autorizzazioni Ambientali

E. prot. DVA – 2015 – 0007643 del 18/03/2015

**Da:** Georgeanne Matranga <dtporge@aol.it>  
**Inviato:** mercoledì 18 marzo 2015 09:27  
**A:** DGSalvanguardia.Ambientale@PEC.minambiente.it  
**Oggetto:** Please STOP plans to drill for oil and gas in the Croatian Adriatic Sea!

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I kindly ask you to stop plans to drill for oil and gas in the Croatian Adriatic Sea.

These plans would seriously damage the environment and the people that live in the region.

This region is one of the world's most treasured travel destinations. In fact, the Croatian Adriatic has served millions of European tourists for many decades. Tourism is the largest contributor to the Croatian service sector and its several billion euro yearly income makes up a significant portion of the nation's GDP. Tourism's positive effects are felt throughout the economy of Croatia in increased business volume throughout other sectors. The visitor is drawn to the pristine, natural beauty of the Croatian Adriatic. Oil and gas exploration would damage that beauty and culture which is vital for economic survival of the coastal region.

The entire offshore drilling process creates pollution detrimental to humans and marine life for the life of the project. Offshore platforms dump drilling fluid and metal cuttings, which include toxins such as lead chromium, mercury, and benzene, directly into the sea. One drilling platform can discharge 90,000 metric tons of drilling fluids and metal cuttings into the sea, all damaging marine life and water quality. In addition to drilling platforms, any oil tanker traffic through this sea would risk polluting the water even further, as every year 635,000 tons of crude oil are spilled by vessels into the Mediterranean Sea.

All of this within kilometers of protected marine areas and over a thousand Croatian islands and islets.

The nation's most important natural treasure, the Adriatic Sea, must be protected. It is absolutely clear that this project is incompatible with the protection of the Croatian Adriatic Sea and must be stopped.

Thank you for your attention to my profoundly grave concerns.

Sincerely,

Georgeanne Matranga

New York 11776

