

# President Obama and Secretary Salazar: **Quyanaq (Thank You)** for suspending exploratory drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

Alaska's Big Village Network  
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
Alaska Wilderness League  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Inupiat Community of  
the Arctic Slope  
National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Native Village of Barrow  
Native Village of Diomede  
Native Village of Point Hope  
Native Village of Point Lay  
Native Village of Shishmaref  
Natural Resources  
Defense Council  
Northern Alaska  
Environmental Center  
Oceana  
Ocean Conservancy  
Pacific Environment  
Pew Environment Group  
Resisting Environmental  
Destruction on Indigenous  
Lands (REDOIL)  
Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Society  
World Wildlife Fund

As Alaska Natives and organizations who fight for Alaska's natural heritage, we deeply appreciate your decision to suspend exploratory oil drilling this summer in the dangerous and environmentally sensitive waters of the Arctic Ocean. As the disastrous spill in the Gulf of Mexico has illustrated, terrible things can happen when the race for more oil runs ahead of technological capacity, careful planning and available spill-response infrastructure. And it's clear that oil cleanup would be extremely difficult in the remote and frigid Arctic.

Your May 27 decision is a vital reprieve for Alaska Natives and for the bowhead whales, walrus, seals, polar bears and millions of migratory birds that depend on this fragile marine environment. Suspending drilling until we have more information about the Gulf spill and a better understanding of the technology and science is the responsible choice.

**Please keep these waters safe for marine life  
and the Alaska Natives who depend on it.**

