

## Alaska Oil and Gas Association

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**Judge Sharon Gleason throws out every argument made by  
anti-industry groups' lawsuit**

***Calls the groups' legal arguments "unpersuasive", says government "met its obligation"***

**ANCHORAGE-** In a blow to environmental groups that file lawsuits designed to delay or halt resource develop projects, The United States District Court for the District of Alaska recently ruled in favor of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Alaska Oil & Gas Association (AOGA).

The two parties defended the agency's Incidental Take Regulations (ITR) for the Chukchi Sea against a challenge filed by Greenpeace, Alaska Wilderness League, Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, and other anti-development organizations.

On January 21, 2012, AOGA requested that the USFWS implement its incidental take regulation detailing allowable activities associated with oil and gas exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea for a period of five years. The USFWS Chukchi Sea ITR outlined a number of specified mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements. In November, 2014, six environmental groups initiated a legal challenge of the ITR, arguing that the ITR had problems.

Last week, the Court found each and every legal challenge to be completely without merit. Going further, Judge Sharon Gleason noted that the ITR in question is actually more stringent in its environmental protections than previous versions. This case represents the most recent failure of environmental groups' efforts to legally challenge ITR's in Alaska.

"These frivolous legal challenges are really just outside special interest groups' attempt to interfere with oil and gas operations, and Alaska's economy," said AOGA President and CEO Kara Moriarty. "AOGA is gratified the Court once again has recognized the protections in place are sufficient and legally sound, especially when these challenges are contrived and often disingenuous."

AOGA is the professional trade association whose mission is to foster the long-term viability of the oil and gas industry in Alaska for the benefit of all Alaskans. Its 14 members represent the majority of oil and gas producers, explorers, refiners, transporters and marketers in Alaska. More information can be found at [www.aoga.org](http://www.aoga.org).

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