

“Un riesgo directo, existencial e inaceptable...”

MAS DE 100 CIENTÍFICOS MEXICANOS E INTERNACIONALES SE OPONEN A GNL EN EL GOLFO DE CALIFORNIA

Nosotros, los firmantes, somos científicos dedicados al estudio y conservación de los ecosistemas marinos, unidos por nuestra profunda preocupación acerca de la producción y el transporte de gas natural licuado (GNL) en el Golfo de California, un ecosistema natural icónico de importancia ecológica global. El desarrollo del GNL representa un riesgo directo, existencial e inaceptable a la internacionalmente reconocida biodiversidad y los hábitats del Golfo.

En 1978, México designó partes del Golfo de California como Refugio para Aves Migratorias y Vida Silvestre y, en 1993, como Reserva de la Biosfera. En 2005, la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO) inscribió 12 áreas protegidas a lo largo del Golfo como Patrimonio Mundial bajo el nombre “Islas y Áreas Protegidas del Golfo de California”. Desde 2022, la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) ha catalogado al Golfo como un Área de Importancia para los Mamíferos Marinos. En 2025, el Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza de la UICN aprobó la Resolución 8.031, que exhorta a los gobiernos de México y de Estados Unidos a oponerse, reconsiderar o prohibir las autorizaciones que permiten

la industrialización del GNL en este ecosistema.

Su biodiversidad marina es verdaderamente extraordinaria, e incluye una variedad espectacular de especies migratorias como las ballenas azules, jorobadas y grises, cachalotes, tortugas marinas, tiburones ballena, mantarrayas y calamares gigantes de Humboldt, todas ellas dependientes de los hábitats seguros que proporcionan sus aguas. Una población evolutivamente distinta de ballena de aleta reside allí durante todo el año y la región del Alto Golfo sirve como último refugio para la vaquita marina, especie en peligro crítico de extinción. Más de 900 especies de peces se encuentran en estas aguas, al igual que corales de importancia regional, vibrantes zonas intermareales y un tercio de todas las especies de cetáceos del mundo. Es un recurso excepcionalmente rico para la investigación científica, que permite a la comunidad científica internacional profundizar en la comprensión del mayor ecosistema del planeta: el océano. Con justa razón, el renombrado oceanógrafo Jacques Yves Cousteau describió al Golfo como el “Acuario del Mundo”.

Consideramos que la industrialización de esta región excepcional atenta contra los principios y

valores bajo los cuales se crearon los sitios del Patrimonio Mundial, las Reservas de la Biosfera y los refugios de vida silvestre. La instalación de infraestructura industrial a gran escala sentaría un peligroso precedente que contradice el amplio consenso científico: la pérdida y degradación del hábitat en estuarios y aguas costeras ya perjudican a innumerables especies cruciales para la supervivencia de la vida marina y terrestre.

Específicamente, se propone transportar por gasoducto el gas obtenido mediante fracking (fracturación hidráulica) en la Cuenca Pérmica de Estados Unidos hacia el Golfo de California, para convertirlo en GNL y enviarlo a Asia en buques de 274 metros (900 pies). Dos proyectos propuestos actualmente en la costa oriental del Golfo son motivo de especial preocupación: Saguaro Energía LNG, en Puerto Libertad, y AMIGO GNL, en Guaymas, ambos en las costas de Sonora. El consiguiente aumento en el tráfico marítimo supondrá un peligro mortal para especies de esta región marina, altamente vulnerables a colisiones con embarcaciones, entre ellas ballenas, tortugas marinas y tiburones ballena. El tránsito de buques aumentará exponencialmente los niveles de

contaminación acústica submarina en el hábitat casi prístino del Golfo. La descarga de agua de lastre de estos buques conlleva el riesgo de introducir especies invasoras y la infraestructura portuaria requerirá un dragado constante. Los impactos derivados de la industrialización por el GNL amenazan con degradar la salud de todo el ecosistema del Golfo, la diversidad de especies marinas que sustenta y la pesca comercial, deportiva y de subsistencia.

Con todo respeto, consideramos que la producción y el transporte de GNL representan un riesgo inaceptable para los recursos biológicos en una región reconocida como una de las áreas de mayor biodiversidad marina y costera del mundo. Debido a su sensibilidad ecológica y en consonancia con su reconocimiento global, el Golfo de California no es el lugar indicado para el desarrollo de GNL. Por lo tanto, instamos a los gobiernos de México y de Estados Unidos a acatar las recomendaciones de la UICN y rechazar estos proyectos.

Confiamos en que el Gobierno de México mantendrá su compromiso de proteger el patrimonio natural excepcional del Golfo, el cual ha sustentado a personas y vida silvestre por milenios.

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“A Direct, Existential, and Unacceptable Risk

MORE THAN 100 MEXICAN AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS

OPPOSE LNG IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

We, the undersigned, are marine and conservation scientists united in our profound concern about proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) production and transport in the Gulf of California, an iconic natural ecosystem of global ecological significance. LNG development poses a direct, existential, and unacceptable risk to the internationally recognized biodiversity and habitats of the Gulf.

In 1978 Mexico designated parts of the Gulf as a Migratory Bird and Wildlife Refuge and, in 1993, as a Biosphere Reserve. In 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed 12 protected areas across the Gulf as “The Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California” World Heritage Site. Since 2022, the Gulf has been listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as an Important Marine Mammal Area. In 2025, the IUCN’s World Conservation Congress approved Resolution 8.031, calling on the Governments of Mexico and the United States to oppose, reconsider, or prohibit authorizations permitting LNG industrialization of the Gulf.

Indeed, its marine biodiversity is extraordinary, including a spectacular array of migratory species such as blue, humpback, sperm, and gray whales, sea turtles, whale sharks, manta rays, and giant Humboldt squid – all dependent on the safe habitat that the Gulf provides. An evolutionarily distinct population of fin whales resides there year-round, and the upper Gulf serves as the last refuge of the critically endangered vaquita. More than 900 species of fish are found in its waters, as well as regionally significant corals, vibrant intertidal zones, and a third of all cetacean species on Earth. It is a uniquely rich resource for scientific research, enabling international scientific communities to deepen their understanding of the planet’s greatest ecosystem – the ocean. With good reason, renowned oceanographer Jacques Yves Cousteau described the Gulf as the “Aquarium of the World.”

We believe that industrialization of this exceptional region is contrary to the principles and values that World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves, and wildlife refuges were created to uphold. Siting of major industry will create a dangerous precedent at odds with the broad scientific consensus that the loss and degradation of habitat in the world’s estuaries and coastal waters is already harming innumerable species crucial for sustaining both marine and terrestrial life.

More specifically, fracked gas produced in the Permian Basin is proposed to be piped to the Gulf, processed into LNG, and shipped to Asia in 900-foot tankers. Of particular concern are two projects currently proposed along the Gulf’s eastern shore: Saguaro Energia LNG, at Puerto Libertad, Sonora, and AMIGO LNG, at Guaymas, Sonora. The resulting substantial increase in ship traffic will pose a mortal danger to Gulf species vulnerable to vessel strikes, including whales, sea turtles, and whale sharks. Transiting tankers will exponentially increase levels of

harmful underwater noise pollution in the Gulf's near-pristine acoustic habitat. The discharge of ballast water from tankers risks introducing invasive species, and ports will require ongoing dredging. LNG industrialization risks degrading the health of the entire Gulf ecosystem, the diversity of marine species it sustains, and commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.

We respectfully submit that the production and transport of LNG pose an unacceptable risk to biological resources in a region renowned as one of the world's most important areas of marine and coastal biodiversity. Because of its ecological sensitivity, and consistent with that global recognition, the Gulf of California is the wrong place to develop LNG. We therefore urge the Mexican and United States governments to heed the IUCN's recommendation to reject these projects.

We trust that the Mexican government will continue its longstanding commitment to protecting the Gulf's exceptional natural heritage, which has sustained the people and wildlife of the region for millennia.

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