



# Connecticut's Clean Coast Economy

**T**he atmosphere and lifestyle of seaside towns in Connecticut are directly tied to healthy coastal resources and clean sandy shores. Many of Connecticut's coastal towns face the Long Island Sound, a unique tidal estuary that supports a thriving ecosystem of hard clams, scallops, mussels, and fish like flounder, sea bass, and porgy. Steeped in history, the Connecticut coast has old shipbuilding villages like Mystic, quiet beach towns like Madison, and scenic locales like the pink granite Thimble Islands. Commercial fishing is a part of the culture of coastal Connecticut and brings in catches of lobster, scallops, crabs, squid, scup and bluefish.

## What's at Risk?

New offshore drilling and exploration proposals pose a direct threat to coastal tourism and other local businesses that depend on a healthy and clean marine environment.

### FISHING, TOURISM & RECREATION

*along Connecticut's coast:*

SUPPORT

**51,557  
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$3.6 BILLION  
IN GDP**

*Offshore drilling threatens*

**NEARLY 52,000 JOBS**

*and roughly*

**\$3.6 BILLION IN GDP**

*in Connecticut for only*

**11 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL**

*and*

**9 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS**



## A Bad Deal for Connecticut

*Risking Connecticut's clean coast economy for very little offshore oil and gas would be a shortsighted and permanent mistake.*

At current national consumption rates, the Atlantic's supply of undiscovered economically recoverable offshore oil and gas would only meet domestic oil demand for less than seven months and gas demand for less than six months. Off the coast of Connecticut alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly 11 days and nine days respectively.

The risk of another catastrophe like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster is too great to endanger Connecticut's healthy ocean resources and thriving coastal economies. The blowout resulted in more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, with far reaching consequences that are still being discovered, including enormous economic losses, human health impacts, and disturbing effects on marine ecosystems. Impacts to fisheries could total \$8.7 billion by 2020, and roughly 10 million user-days of beach, fishing and boating activity were lost.

Oil spills do not recognize state boundaries; spreading slicks could hinder tourism, recreation and fishing economies all along the East Coast. Finally, the likely industrialization that goes hand-in-hand with offshore oil and gas development would dramatically alter the character of Connecticut's coast. The addition of large scale oil refineries, and the associated pipelines required to pump oil, would irreversibly transform peaceful beach spots into oil towns scattered with drilling infrastructure.

Offshore drilling for oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous venture that would threaten Connecticut's abundant ocean resources, which bring in consistent revenue year after year. Oil and gas are finite resources; when the oil runs out, so do the jobs.

Off Connecticut's coast, the economically recoverable

# OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

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and

# 9 DAYS

respectively.



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# IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

### TAKE ACTION

## Oppose Offshore Drilling and Seismic Airgun Blasting

Seismic airgun blasting is an extremely loud and harmful technology used to explore for oil and gas deep below the ocean floor. Seismic airgun blasting is the first step towards offshore drilling, and as history has taught us — when we drill, we spill. Seismic airgun blasts put marine life and coastal communities who rely on healthy oceans at risk, in addition to all the dangerous consequences of offshore drilling. Help protect the health of our oceans by stopping the expansion of offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting.

The time to act is now. We must protect our coast, living ocean resources and local economies from the threat of new offshore drilling and exploration.

For sources and methodology, please visit:  
[Oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy](http://Oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy)

**#ProtectOurCoast**