



Rhode Island's Clean Coast Economy

Rhode Island's iconic stretches of wide sandy beach are an important attraction for the state's tourism industry. Throughout almost 400 miles of shoreline, Rhode Island also has sheltered inlets, rocky enclaves that jut into the Atlantic surf, and placid salt marshes that stretch inland. Wildlife sightings are common on the bay, with healthy coastal ecosystems that support thriving populations of porpoises, dolphins, whales, seals, and migratory birds. Popular towns like Newport, Bristol, and Narragansett are communities with a lifestyle defined by pristine shores and bountiful salty waters. Old fishing villages throughout the coast still contribute to the state's economy, with large landings of mackerel, flounder, cod, herring, squid, scallops and clams.

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.

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 50,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$2.9 BILLION IN GDP

in Rhode Island for only

14 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

12 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



FISHING, TOURISM & RECREATION

along Rhode Island's coast:

SUPPORT

**50,097
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$2.9 BILLION
IN GDP**

A Bad Deal for Rhode Island

Risking Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly 14 days and 12 days respectively.

The risk of another catastrophe like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster is too great to endanger Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island's coast, the economically recoverable

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

14 DAYS

and

12 DAYS

respectively.



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](https://oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy)

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