# California's Clean Coast Economy

alifornia's abundant ocean and coastal resources are a major attraction for millions of tourists every year. Rugged rocky cliffs, tide pools, sandy spits of shore with popular surfing spots, and pristine state parks dot California's 3,400 miles of spectacular coast. The vibrant ocean environment off California's coast supports ecosystems with everything from colorful anemones and lush kelp forests to playful sea otters, sea lions, dolphins and whales. Pods of humpback, blue, gray, fin, minke and sperm whales, as well as orcas, provide ample whale-watching opportunities off the California coast, drawing locals and tourists alike year-round. Pacific waters also sustain California's robust commercial and recreational fisheries – bringing in large catches of Dungeness crab, market squid, sablefish, rockfish, Chinook salmon, tuna, swordfish and California halibut – that contribute significantly to the state's ocean economy.

### What's at Risk?

**OCEANA** 

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.



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Offshore drilling threatens NEARLY 600,000 JOBS and roughly \$42.3 BILLION IN GDP in California



## A Bad Deal for California

# Further risking California's clean coast economy for very little offshore oil and gas would be a shortsighted and permanent mistake. Healthy,

diverse and abundant oceans are reliant on a clean coast economy, where energy is derived from cleaner alternatives to offshore drilling that do not jeopardize coastal communities and local ocean economies with the risk of oil spills.

Another catastrophic spill like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout is too great a risk to California's healthy ocean resources and thriving coastal economies. This disaster, combined with the Refugio Beach spill of 2015 and chronic leaks from decades of everyday oil rig and pipeline activities, have released more than 4 million gallons of oil into the Pacific Ocean. Oil spills in the Pacific have affected at least 935 square miles of ocean, an area nearly twice the size of Los Angeles. California communities have felt the devastation caused by spreading slicks and the lasting consequences, which include substantial economic hardships from lost fishing and beachgoing opportunities, human health impacts, and disturbing effects on marine ecosystems.

Currently, 27 oil platforms stand off the coast of California. The expansion of offshore drilling in the Pacific would further increase the risk of a spill. Offshore drilling for oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous venture that already threatens California'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.

# **IT'S NOT** WORTH IT.



#### **TAKE ACTION**

#### **Oppose New Offshore Drilling**

History has taught us — when we drill, we spill. Help protect our oceans by stopping the expansion of offshore drilling and exploration.

The time to act is now. We must protect our coast, living ocean resources and local economies from the threat of expanded offshore drilling. For sources and methodology, please visit: Oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy

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