



Delaware's Clean Coast Economy

Delaware's lively beaches and charming coastal towns are crucial drivers for the entire state's economy. Beautiful beach spots like Bethany, Dewey and Rehoboth Beach are popular tourist locations in the summer months. The popularity of these coastal communities as a destination for tourists is inextricably linked to Delaware's clean shores and vibrant ocean resources. The Delaware seaboard packs a variety of recreation opportunities from energetic boardwalks full of seaside entertainment and popular fishing spots to calm bayside beaches and pristine state parks with undeveloped natural beauty. Healthy ocean resources define the way of life in coastal communities along the eastern shore, and watermen contribute to the local economy by bringing in catches of Atlantic lobster, clams, oysters, striped bass, and flounder.

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 Delaware's coast:

SUPPORT

**25,435
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$1.2 BILLION
IN GDP**

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 25,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$1.2 BILLION IN GDP

in Delaware for only

8 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

7 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



A Bad Deal for Delaware

Risking Delaware'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 Delaware alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly eight days and seven days respectively.

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

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

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and

7 DAYS

respectively.



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

#ProtectOurCoast