Permanent Protections from Offshore Drilling Benefit Connecticut’s Economy & Help Fight Climate Change

Oceana.org/Job$andDollars
Connecticut Needs a Clean Coast

The atmosphere and lifestyle of seaside towns in Connecticut are directly tied to healthy coasts 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?

Offshore drilling threatens coastal businesses and economies that depend on a clean and healthy ocean. We can fight the climate crisis and safeguard our coastal economy by advancing clean energy and permanently protecting our coasts from offshore drilling.

A Bad Deal for Connecticut

A catastrophic oil spill, like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout or the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, would pose a great risk to Connecticut’s coastal economies that depend on a healthy ocean. When toxic oil is spilled, it poisons marine wildlife, causes beach closures, and disrupts lucrative fishing areas. Permanently protecting Connecticut’s coast from offshore drilling will safeguard its coastal economies from the next oil disaster.

Offshore drilling for oil and gas is dirty and dangerous and threatens Connecticut’s fishing, tourism, and recreation industries, which depend on a healthy ocean and provide consistent revenue year after year when sustainably managed. Oil and gas are finite resources; when the oil runs out, so do the jobs.

Protecting Connecticut’s Coast from Offshore Drilling Helps Combat the Climate Crisis

The climate disaster is already wreaking havoc across the United States and here in Connecticut. As a result of increasingly intense and extreme weather, dangerous storm surges push farther inland, expanding their deadly and costly impact. Sea levels are rising and destructive flooding is becoming more frequent and severe. Increased flooding and saltwater intrusion stress coastal wildlife and threaten critical infrastructure, including roads and drinking water supplies.

Connecticut Has 618 Miles of Coastline

54,000 American Jobs

$4.2 Billion in gross domestic product

A Clean Coast Economy that supports around

Tourism
Recreation
Fishing

which are threatened by offshore drilling

Off Connecticut’s coast, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly

11 Days of Oil

9 Days of Gas

Connecting People, Property, and Environment

Permanently Protecting all federal waters from offshore drilling can prevent more than

19 Billion Tons of greenhouse gas emissions

Equivalent to taking every car in the nation off the road for

15 Years

Protecting our coast from new oil development can prevent over

$720 Billion in damages to people, property, and environment.

This would be like losing the entire economy of a major city, like Washington, D.C., Boston, or Atlanta, for a year.
Our ocean can be a major part of the clean energy solution.

 RESPONSIBLY SITED OFFSHORE WIND has the potential to generate MORE ELECTRICITY than our nation currently demands.

Learn More:

We must permanently protect Connecticut's coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

For sources and methodology, please visit: oceana.org/jobsanddollars

#ProtectOurCoast