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

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With more coastline than any other state in the continental United States, healthy and thriving coastal resources provide livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of Floridians. Florida has unique characteristics that make it a diverse paradise for locals and tourists alike. The Atlantic side has picturesque sunrises, rolling dunes, and crashing surf, while the Gulf side has warm breezes, gently lapping waves, and stunning sunsets. Among some 8,400 miles of shoreline exist a variety of busy beaches full of tourists, popular surf spots, fishing meccas, quiet barrier islands, and protected natural areas like the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Clean Florida waters are home to thriving manatee populations and calving grounds of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Florida is known for its incredible fishing, and these productive waters support booming commercial and recreational fishing industries. Recreational fishermen flock to the Florida coast for prize catches of mahi mahi, cobia, grouper, snapper, and billfish. Commercial fishing boats land substantial catches of shrimp, stone crab, grouper, wahoo, mackerel, and swordfish.

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 Florida

A catastrophic oil spill, like the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, would pose a great risk to Florida’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 Florida’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 Florida’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 Florida’s Coast from Offshore Drilling Helps Combat the Climate Crisis

The climate disaster is already wreaking havoc across the United States and here in Florida. 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.

Florida Has

8,436 Miles of Coastline

With a clean coast economy that supports around 659,000 American jobs and $43.2 billion in gross domestic product through activities like tourism, recreation, and fishing, which are threatened by offshore drilling.

Floridians Need a Clean Coast

What’s at Risk?

A Bad Deal for Florida

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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.

Protector 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 Florida’s coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast