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

Oceana.org/JobsandDollars
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 Georgia
A catastrophic oil spill, like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout or the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, would pose a great risk to Georgia’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 Georgia’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 Georgia’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 Georgia’s Coast from Offshore Drilling Helps Combat the Climate Crisis
The climate disaster is already wreaking havoc across the United States and here in Georgia. 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.

Georgians Need a Clean Coast
Georgia’s beautiful shoreline is made up of a variety of national treasures, from strings of pristine barrier islands that buffer the rolling dunes and sandy lengths of shore to the intertwined marshlands, intertidal flats, tidal creeks, and maritime forests that extend further inland. The tides are the lifeblood of the region, connecting the Atlantic with a productive marsh system that provides nursery habitat for all manner of marine life, from shorebirds and crabs to economically important fish like croaker, drums, sea bass, and flounder.

This unique mix of environments draws tourists all year-round, whales pass the coast, whether it’s to explore the dynamic marshlands, watch dolphins play in the surf and whales pass the coast on their migration route, visit the coast’s many historic sites, or relax in a charming seaside town. Georgia’s fishing industry also contributes to the local economy, with commercial fishermen landing large catches of blue crab, clams, shrimp, grouper, and snapper.

Off Georgia’s coast, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly ONE DAY.

GEORGIA HAS 2,344 MILES OF COASTLINE
WITH A CLEAN COAST ECONOMY THAT SUPPORTS AROUND 27,000 AMERICAN JOBS AND $1.6 BILLION IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE TOURISM, RECREATION, AND FISHING
which are threatened by offshore drilling

Offshore drilling can prevent more than 19 BILLION TONS of greenhouse gas emissions EQUIVALENT TO $720 BILLION IN DAMAGES TO PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Protecting our coast from new oil development can prevent over 15 YEARS taking every car in the nation off the road for protecting every car in the nation off the road for a year

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.

Learn More:
We must permanently protect Georgia’s coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast