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

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Bay Staters Need a Clean Coast

A healthy ocean is a defining feature for coastal communities in Massachusetts, whose history is inextricably tied to clean salty waters and vibrant coastal ecosystems. Popular coastal spots like Nantucket, Martha’s Vineyard, the Boston Harbor, and Cape Cod draw millions of visitors each year. The Massachusetts seashore is a major attraction with numerous iconic lighthouses, a variety of sandy beaches, popular surfing areas, a string of quiet harbor islands, charming harbor and seaside communities, and historical maritime sites.

As they feed off Massachusetts’ coast, pods of humpback, fin, minke, and North Atlantic right whales make for popular whale watching opportunities. Massachusetts is also renowned for its robust fishing industry, with seas that can support substantial catches of oysters, lobsters, scallops, butterfish, monkfish, flounder, mackerel, and herring.

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 Massachusetts

A catastrophic oil spill, like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout or the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, would pose a great risk to Massachusetts’ 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 Massachusetts’ 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 Massachusetts’ 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 Massachusetts’ Coast from Offshore Drilling Helps Combat the Climate Crisis

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

Massachusetts Has 1,519 Miles of Coastline

With a clean coast economy that supports around 124,000 American jobs and $10.3 billion in gross domestic product through activities like tourism, recreation, and fishing, which are threatened by offshore drilling.

Off Massachusetts’ coast, the economically recoverable oil resources would only meet demand for roughly 17 days of oil and 14 days of gas.

People

Property

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 the 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 Massachusetts’ coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast