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

Oceana.org/JobsandDollars
New Yorkers Need a Clean Coast

New York’s abundant ocean and vibrant coastal ecosystems are major drivers of the entire state’s economy, providing livelihoods for thousands of Americans and defining the lifestyle of communities along the coast. Just outside of developed New York City is an Atlantic coast home to cozy beach towns, old fishing villages, sandy beaches with incredible surfing conditions, amusement hubs like Coney Island, and even protected shores like the Fire Island National Seashore.

The maritime industry is a longstanding and defining characteristic of New York, an industry whose success is closely tied to healthy marine ecosystems. The state has local, commercial, and recreational fishing economies that take advantage of productive fishing grounds for species like flounder, sea bass, scup, bluefish, menhaden, scallops, and squid.

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 New York
A catastrophic oil spill, like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout or the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, would pose a great risk to New York’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 New York’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 New York’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 New York’s Coast from Offshore Drilling Helps Combat the Climate Crisis
The climate disaster is already wreaking havoc across the United States and here in New York. 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.
Our ocean can be a major part of the clean energy solution.

Learn More:

We must permanently protect New York’s coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast