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

Oceana.org/JobsandDollars
North Carolinians Need a Clean Coast

With more than 300 miles of pristine beaches, North Carolina’s abundant fisheries and ocean wildlife are a major attraction for millions of tourists each year. Interspersed down the coast are two national seashores, sites steeped in Revolutionary and Civil War history, and dozens of charming seaside towns. North Carolina’s salty waters and rich ecosystems are the lifeblood of coastal communities. Pristine stretches of beach that provide habitat for nesting sea turtles and breeding wading birds are buffered by unique barrier islands where you can watch wildlife like dolphins, whales, and occasionally seals and manatees swimming past.

Surf fishing and pier fishing are popular along the coast, while deeper waters draw recreational fishermen for impressive catches of croaker, sea bass, amberjack, grouper, snapper, and marlin. Commercial fishing also helps drive North Carolina’s coastal economy, boasting large catches of clams, oysters, blue crab, shrimp, tuna, flounder, bluefish, and croaker.

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 North Carolina

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA HAS
3,375 MILES OF COASTLINE

62,000 AMERICAN JOBS
AND
$3.1 BILLION in gross domestic product
THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE
TOURISM RECREATION FISHING
which are threatened by offshore drilling

65 DAYS OF OIL
AND
57 DAYS OF GAS

19 BILLION TONS of greenhouse gas emissions
EQUIVALENT TO
taking every car in the nation off the road for 15 YEARS

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Our ocean can be a major part of the clean energy solution.

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

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

#ProtectOurCoast

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