



# **Permanent Protections from Offshore Drilling Benefit North Carolina's Economy & Help Fight Climate Change**

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NORTH CAROLINA HAS  
**3,375 MILES**  
OF COASTLINE

WITH A CLEAN COAST ECONOMY  
THAT SUPPORTS AROUND

**62,000**  
AMERICAN JOBS

AND

**\$3.1 BILLION**  
in gross domestic product

THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE



TOURISM



RECREATION



FISHING

which are threatened by offshore drilling

Off North Carolina's coast, the economically **recoverable oil and gas** resources would only **meet demand** for roughly

**65 DAYS OF OIL**  
AND  
**57 DAYS OF GAS**

## 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.

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



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  
North Carolina's coast from the  
threat of offshore drilling.

For sources and methodology, please visit:  
[oceana.org/jobsanddollars](http://oceana.org/jobsanddollars)

#ProtectOurCoast

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