



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

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RHODE ISLAND HAS  
**384 MILES**  
OF COASTLINE

WITH A CLEAN COAST ECONOMY  
THAT SUPPORTS AROUND

**53,000**  
AMERICAN JOBS

AND

**\$3.5 BILLION**  
in gross domestic product

THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE



TOURISM



RECREATION



FISHING

which are threatened by offshore drilling

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

**14 DAYS OF OIL**  
AND  
**12 DAYS OF GAS**

## Rhode Islanders Need a Clean Coast

Rhode Island's iconic stretches of wide, sandy beaches are an important attraction for the state's tourism industry. Throughout almost 400 miles of shoreline, Rhode Island also has sheltered inlets, rocky enclaves that jut into the Atlantic surf, and placid salt marshes that stretch inland.

Wildlife sightings are common on the bay, with healthy coastal ecosystems that support thriving populations of porpoises, dolphins, whales, seals, and migratory birds. Popular towns like Newport, Bristol, and Narragansett are communities with a lifestyle defined by pristine shores and bountiful salty waters. Old fishing villages throughout the coast still contribute to the state's economy, with large landings of mackerel, flounder, cod, herring, squid, scallops, and clams.

### 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 Rhode Island

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

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

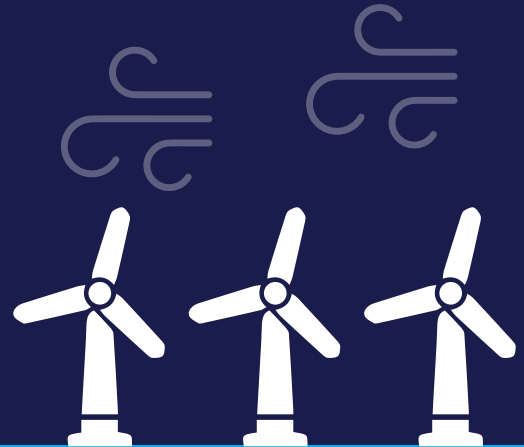
losing the **entire economy** of a  
major city, like **Washington, D.C.**,  
**Boston**, or **Atlanta**, for a year



**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  
Rhode Island's coast from the  
threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast

