



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

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VIRGINIA HAS  
3,315 MILES  
OF COASTLINE

WITH A CLEAN COAST ECONOMY  
THAT SUPPORTS AROUND

92,000  
AMERICAN JOBS

AND

\$5.5 BILLION  
in gross domestic product

THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE



TOURISM



RECREATION



FISHING

which are threatened by offshore drilling

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

30 DAYS OF OIL  
AND  
27 DAYS OF GAS

## Virginians Need a Clean Coast

Virginia has over 3,300 miles of coastline and is home to thousands of people who make their living directly from healthy coastal resources. Uniquely situated, Virginia offers both quiet stretches of Chesapeake Bay shore and wider, sandy strips of beach on the open Atlantic. The Chesapeake Bay is an estuarine environment whose waters are home to blue crabs, clams, bay scallops, oysters, and fish like striped bass, cobia, and bluefish.

The health of the bay supports marine life that feed into the Atlantic, creating a productive seafood industry for Virginia – contributing to the local economy as fishermen land plentiful catches of sea scallops, hard clams, oysters, blue crab, menhaden, flounder, croaker, and spot. Virginia's seaboard is home to fishing villages and popular beach getaways, as well as protected wildlife oases like Chincoteague and Assateague where you can watch wild ponies roam the dunes or explore undeveloped beaches.

### 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 Virginia

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

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

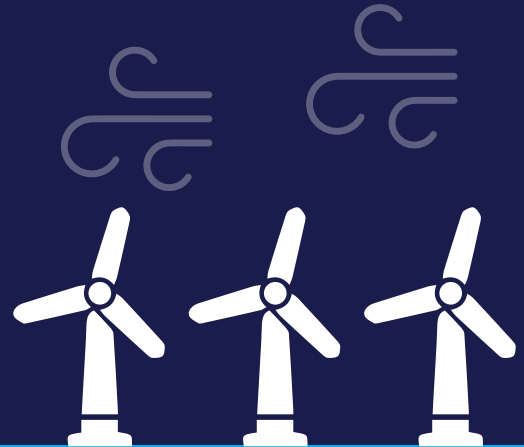
losing the **entire economy** of a  
major city, like **Washington, D.C.**,  
**Boston**, or **Atlanta**, for a year



**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  
Virginia's coast from the threat  
of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast

