Maine's Clean Coast Economy

Healthy ocean resources are a prominent feature in Maine, whose rocky shores and robust seafood industry draw millions of visitors each year. The way of life in Maine's iconic beachside communities is defined by bountiful salt waters that lap the shore, forging an important tie between locals and the pristine Atlantic. With nearly 3,500 miles of coastline, Maine is home to beautiful Acadia National Park, smooth sandy beaches, rugged bluffs of coast, and charming seaside towns. Clean ocean waters support many species of whales and dolphins as well as important nesting and breeding grounds for wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Maine's productive marine environment also fosters a commercial fishing industry that contributes significantly to the state's economy with landings of lobster, clams, scallops, halibut, and herring.

What's at Risk?

New offshore drilling and exploration proposals pose a direct threat to coastal tourism and other local businesses that depend on a healthy and clean marine environment.

FISHING, TOURISM & RECREATION

along Maine's coast:

SUPPORT	GENERATE
54,384 JOBS	**$2.7 BILLION IN GDP**

A Bad Deal for Maine

Risking Maine's clean coast economy for very little offshore oil and gas would be a shortsighted and permanent mistake.

At current national consumption rates the Atlantic's supply of undiscovered economically recoverable offshore oil and gas would only meet domestic oil demand for less than seven months and gas demand for less than six months. Off the coast of Maine alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly 10 days and eight days respectively.

The risk of another catastrophe like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster is too great to endanger Maine's healthy ocean resources and thriving coastal economies. The blowout resulted in more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, with far reaching consequences that are still being discovered, including enormous economic losses, human health impacts, and disturbing effects on marine ecosystems. Impacts to fisheries could total $8.7 billion by 2020, and roughly 10 million user-days of beach, fishing and boating activity were lost.

Oil spills do not recognize state boundaries; spreading slicks could hinder tourism, recreation and fishing economies all along the East Coast. Finally, the likely industrialization that goes hand-in-hand with offshore oil and gas development would dramatically alter the character of Maine's coast. The addition of large scale oil refineries, and the associated pipelines required to pump oil, would irreversibly transform peaceful beach spots into oil towns scattered with drilling infrastructure.

Offshore drilling for oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous venture that would threaten Maine's abundant ocean resources, which bring in consistent revenue year after year. Oil and gas are finite resources; when the oil runs out, so do the jobs.

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OIL & GAS

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IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

TAKE ACTION

Oppose Offshore Drilling and Seismic Airgun Blasting

Seismic airgun blasting is an extremely loud and harmful technology used to explore for oil and gas deep below the ocean floor. Seismic airgun blasting is the first step towards offshore drilling, and as history has taught us — when we drill, we spill. Seismic airgun blasts put marine life and coastal communities who rely on healthy oceans at risk, in addition to all the dangerous consequences of offshore drilling. Help protect the health of our oceans by stopping the expansion of offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting.

The time to act is now. We must protect our coast, living ocean resources and local economies from the threat of new offshore drilling and exploration.

For sources and methodology, please visit: Oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy

#ProtectOurCoast