



South Carolina's Clean Coast Economy

South Carolina's white sandy beaches and picture-perfect coastal towns are crucial drivers of the entire state's economy. For example, the towns of Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head each attract millions of visitors annually. Healthy ocean resources define the very way of life for communities throughout South Carolina, and the prosperity of these coastal towns is inextricably tied to clean shores and bountiful salty waters. South Carolina's long stretch of Atlantic waterfront and coastal wetlands provide a unique environment for everything from nesting sea turtles and seabirds to scuttling crabs and playful dolphins. Fresh-caught seafood is a staple along the coast, and the local commercial fishing industry contributes greatly to the state's coastal economy, boasting large catches of shrimp, blue crab, oysters, snapper and swordfish.

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 South Carolina's coast:

SUPPORT

**86,256
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$5.1 BILLION
IN GDP**

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 86,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$5.1 BILLION IN GDP

in South Carolina for only

6 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

5 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



A Bad Deal for South Carolina

Risking South Carolina'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 South Carolina alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly six days and five days respectively.

The risk of another catastrophe like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster is too great to endanger South Carolina'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 South Carolina'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 South Carolina'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.

Off South Carolina's coast, the economically recoverable

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

6 DAYS

and

5 DAYS

respectively.



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