



Virginia's Clean Coast Economy

Virginia has over 3,300 miles of coastline and is home to thousands 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. A defining characteristic for the entire state, the Chesapeake Bay is an estuarine environment whose clean waters create the ideal habitat for 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 completely undeveloped beaches.

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 Virginia's coast:

SUPPORT

**86,152
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$4.8 BILLION
IN GDP**

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 86,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$4.8 BILLION IN GDP

in Virginia for only

30 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

27 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



A Bad Deal for Virginia

Risking Virginia'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 Virginia alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly 30 days and 27 days respectively.

The risk of another catastrophe like the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster is too great to endanger Virginia'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 Virginia'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 Virginia'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 Virginia's coast, the economically recoverable

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

30 DAYS

and

27 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