



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

[Oceana.org/JobsandDollars](https://oceana.org/jobsanddollars)

WASHINGTON HAS  
**3,026 MILES**  
OF COASTLINE

WITH A CLEAN COAST ECONOMY  
THAT SUPPORTS AROUND

**139,000**  
AMERICAN JOBS

AND

**\$12.6 BILLION**  
in gross domestic product

THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE



TOURISM



RECREATION



FISHING

which are threatened by offshore drilling

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

**4 DAYS OF OIL**  
AND  
**3 DAYS OF GAS**

## Washingtonians Need a Clean Coast

Washington's natural beauty and plentiful coastal waters attract millions of visitors each year. From Puget Sound to the San Juan Islands and the rugged outer coast, Washington boasts environments including expansive stretches of sandy beach, remote coves framed with towering sea stacks, and rocky shores lined with evergreens. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary alone attracts 3 million people annually, and provides critical habitat for seals, sea lions, sea otters, nesting seabirds, and migrating marine mammals like humpback and gray whales.

Many coastal communities and Indigenous tribes are directly tied to Washington's healthy ocean environment, for their culture and very way of life. The seafood industry also plays a major role in the region's economy, with fishing grounds that bring in large catches of Dungeness crab, Pacific whiting, albacore, pink shrimp, and rockfish. Not only coastal fishers rely on healthy oceans. Prized recreational fish, like steelhead and salmon, which migrate from the ocean back to freshwater streams need clean waters to survive.

## 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 Washington

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

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

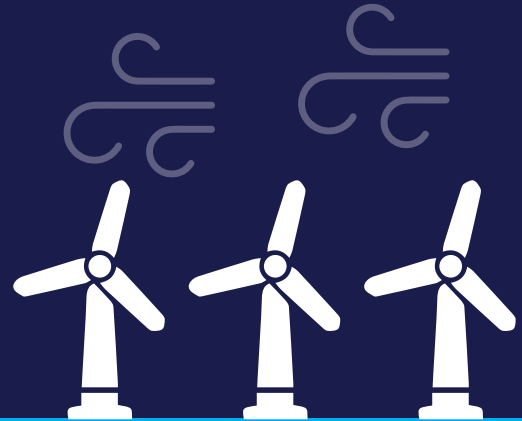
THIS WOULD BE LIKE

losing the **entire economy** of a  
major city, like **Washington, D.C.**,  
**San Francisco**, or **Seattle**, for a year



**Our ocean  
can be a  
major part  
of the clean  
energy  
solution.**

**RESPONSIBLY SITED  
OFFSHORE WIND**  
has the potential to play  
**A VITAL ROLE**  
in meeting our nation's  
**ELECTRICITY DEMANDS**



## Learn More:

We must permanently protect Washington's coast from the threat of offshore drilling.

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

#ProtectOurCoast

