



Georgia's Clean Coast Economy

Georgia's beautiful shoreline is made up of a variety of coastal ecosystems, from strings of pristine barrier islands that buffer the rolling dunes and sandy lengths of shore to the intertwined marshlands, intertidal flats, tidal creeks, and maritime forests that extend further inland. The tides are the lifeblood of the region, connecting the Atlantic with a productive marsh system that provides nursery habitat for all manner of marine life, from shorebirds and crabs to economically important fish like croaker, drums, sea bass and flounder. This unique mix of environments draws tourists all year round, whether it's to explore the dynamic marshlands, watch dolphins play in the surf and whales pass the coast on their migration route, visit the coast's many historic sites or relax in a charming seaside town. Georgia's fishing industry also contributes the local economy, with commercial fisherman landing large catches of finfish and shellfish like blue crab, clams, shrimp, grouper and snapper.

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.

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 23,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$1.3 BILLION IN GDP

in Georgia for only

1 DAY'S-WORTH OF OIL

and

1 DAY'S-WORTH OF GAS



FISHING, TOURISM & RECREATION

along Georgia's coast:

SUPPORT

**23,239
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$1.3 BILLION
IN GDP**

A Bad Deal for Georgia

Risking Georgia'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 Georgia alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly one day each.

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

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

1 DAY EACH



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](https://oceana.org/CleanCoastEconomy)

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