



Maryland's Clean Coast Economy

Healthy ocean resources define the way of life for communities along the Maryland seaboard, which is directly tied to clean shores and bountiful marine life. Fresh caught seafood is a staple on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, known in particular for incredible catches of blue crab. Visitors can stroll beautiful Atlantic facing beaches with bustling boardwalks and popular crab shacks, kayak along calm bay shores, search for fossils beneath beach cliffs, and explore the protected seashore of Assateague Island with wild ponies. Coastal towns, like Ocean City, and the major port cities of Annapolis and Baltimore, attract millions of visitors and generate billions of dollars each year. The clean waters of the Chesapeake Bay, a vibrant estuarine environment, create an ideal habitat for growing blue crabs and oysters and support critical nursing grounds for seabirds and fish like shad, striped bass, and bluefish. A healthy bay also fosters productive commercial fishing in the Atlantic, driving the coastal economy with large catches of blue crab, clams, perch, striped bass, sea trout, and flounder.

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 96,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$6 BILLION IN GDP

in Maryland for only

8 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

7 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



FISHING, TOURISM & RECREATION

along Maryland's coast:

SUPPORT

**96,260
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$6 BILLION
IN GDP**

A Bad Deal for Maryland

Risking Maryland'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 Maryland alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly eight days and seven days respectively.

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

OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

8 DAYS

and

7 DAYS

respectively.



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)

[#ProtectOurCoast](https://twitter.com/ProtectOurCoast)