



Massachusetts' Clean Coast Economy

Healthy ocean resources are a defining feature for coastal communities in Massachusetts, whose history is inextricably tied to clean salty waters and vibrant coastal ecosystems. Popular coastal spots like Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, the Boston Harbor and Cape Cod draw millions of visitors each year. The Massachusetts seashore is a major attraction with numerous iconic lighthouses, a variety of sandy beaches, popular surfing areas, a string of quiet harbor islands, charming harbor and seaside communities, and historical maritime sites. As they feed off Massachusetts' coast, pods of humpback, fin, minke and North Atlantic right whales make for popular whale watching opportunities. Massachusetts is also renown for a robust fishing industry, with seas that sustain substantial catches of oysters, lobsters, scallops, butterfish, monkfish, flounder, mackerel and herring.

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 Massachusetts' coast:

SUPPORT

**110,005
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$8.1 BILLION
IN GDP**

Offshore drilling threatens

OVER 110,000 JOBS

and roughly

\$8.1 BILLION IN GDP

in Massachusetts for only

17 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL

and

14 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS



A Bad Deal for Massachusetts

Risking Massachusetts' 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 Massachusetts alone, the economically recoverable oil and gas resources would only meet demand for roughly 17 days and 14 days respectively.

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

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OIL & GAS

resources would only meet demand for roughly

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and

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

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