

# Washington's Clean Coast Economy



**W**ashington's natural beauty and plentiful coastal resources 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 three 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 Native American 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?

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 Washington's coast:*

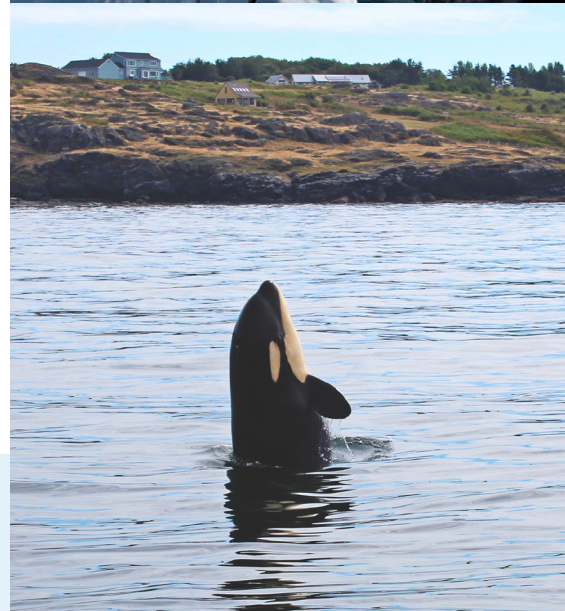
SUPPORT

**127,755  
JOBS**

GENERATE

**\$10.2 BILLION  
IN GDP**

*Offshore drilling threatens*  
**NEARLY 128,000 JOBS**  
*and roughly*  
**\$10.2 BILLION IN GDP**  
*in Washington for only*  
**4 DAYS'-WORTH OF OIL**  
*and*  
**3 DAYS'-WORTH OF GAS**



## A Bad Deal for Washington

***Risking Washington's clean coast economy for very little offshore oil and gas would be a shortsighted and permanent mistake.*** Based on resources that are economically feasible to extract, Washington's entire supply of undiscovered economically recoverable offshore oil and gas would only meet domestic oil demand for roughly four days and gas demand for roughly three days, at current national consumption rates.

A catastrophic spill like the 1969 Santa Barbara blowout off California is too great a risk to Washington's healthy ocean resources and thriving coastal economies. That disaster, combined with the Refugio Beach spill of 2015 and chronic leaks from decades of everyday oil rig and pipeline activities, have released more than 4 million gallons of oil into the Pacific Ocean. Oil spills in the Pacific have affected at least 935 square miles of ocean, an area eleven times the size of Seattle. Communities along the Pacific have felt the devastation caused by spreading slicks and the lasting consequences, which include substantial economic hardships from lost fishing and beachgoing opportunities, human health impacts, and disturbing effects on marine ecosystems.

Currently, 27 oil platforms stand off the coast of California. The expansion of offshore drilling in the Pacific would further increase the risk of a spill. Offshore drilling for oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous venture that threatens abundant Pacific Ocean resources, which bring in consistent revenue for Washington year after year. Oil and gas are finite resources; when the oil runs out, so do the jobs.

### TAKE ACTION

## Oppose New Offshore Drilling

History has taught us — when we drill, we spill. Help protect our oceans by stopping the expansion of offshore drilling and exploration.

The time to act is now. We must protect our coast, living ocean resources and local economies from the threat of expanded offshore drilling.

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

**#ProtectOurCoast**

Off Washington's coast, the economically recoverable

# OIL & GAS

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## 3 DAYS

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# IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

