

Florida's Clean Coast Economy

Offshore drilling threatens

NEARLY 610,000 JOBS

and roughly

$37.4 BILLION IN GDP

in Florida

With more coastline than any other state in the continental United States, healthy and thriving coastal resources provide livelihoods for thousands of Floridians. Florida has unique characteristics that make it a diverse paradise for locals and tourists alike. The Atlantic side has picturesque sunrises, rolling dunes and crashing surf, while the Gulf side has warm breezes, gently lapping waves and stunning sunsets. Among some 8,400 miles of shoreline exist a variety of busy beaches full of tourists, popular surf spots, fishing meccas, quiet barrier islands, and protected natural areas like the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Clean Florida waters are home to thriving manatee populations and calving grounds of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Florida is known for its incredible fishing grounds, and these productive salt waters support booming commercial and recreational fishing industries. Recreational fishermen flock to the Florida coast for prize catches of mahi mahi, cobia, grouper, snapper and billfish. Commercial fishing boats land substantial catches of shrimp, stone crab, grouper, wahoo, mackerel, and swordfish.

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 Florida's coast:

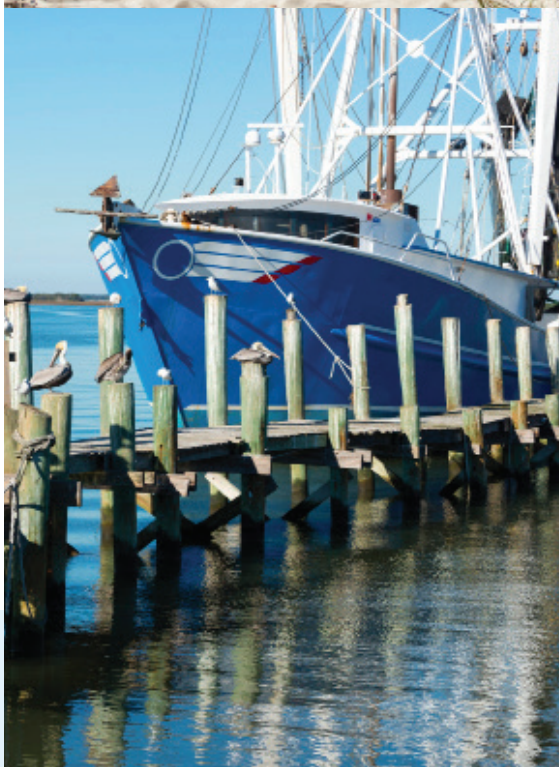
SUPPORT

609,896 JOBS

GENERATE

$37.4 BILLION IN GDP





A Bad Deal for Florida

Risking Florida'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.

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





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

#ProtectOurCoast