

Speak Out Against Offshore Oil Drilling in the Atlantic, including the NJ Shore & NY's South Shore

Fact Sheet

Offshore Drilling

What's at Stake?

- Hundreds of marine whales, dolphins, sea turtles, fish, birds and countless others, including 23 endangered species
- Most of New Jersey's \$44.1 billion dollar tourism industry success is generated at the Jersey Shore.
- New York's coastal economy, valued at \$20 billion
- NJ's commercial fishing economy, valued at \$6 billion
- NY's commercial fishing economy, valued at \$5.3 billion
- NJ & NY's recreational fishermen took over 7.5 million trips and generated \$2.7 billion dollars

Fact Sheet

2019-2024 Draft Proposed Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

The Oil and Gas Drilling Industry is Dirty, Harmful, and can be Lethal

Offshore oil and gas development causes substantial environmental impacts, including: (a) onshore damage due to infrastructure, (b) water pollution from drilling muds and the water brought-up from a well with oil and gas (called "produced waters"), (c) noise from seismic surveys, (d) air pollution, and (e) oil spills.

Drilling Any Where in the Atlantic Ocean Threatens the Region

Oil spills travel vast distances, and the Gulf Stream and Labrador Ocean Current all flow toward New Jersey making the region vulnerable to impacts from spills any where in the Atlantic Ocean.

Remarkable Ecosystem and Critters at Risk

1) New Jersey and New York coasts boast thousands of miles of combined marine habitats, including coastlines, back-bays, estuaries, and rivers which will be at risk.

2) Offshore, the physical, hydrodynamic, and biological characteristics of the ocean are unique in the world, and include the famous Hudson Canyon and other deep water ridges. The warm water from the Gulf Stream and cold water from the Labrador Currents flow into the region making it an essential migratory pathway and bringing a rich diversity of species.

3) Critters of the Region:

- 300 species of fish,
- nearly 350 species of birds,
- 5 species of sea turtles,
- 33 species of whales and dolphins, and 4 species of seals.

Of these, 23 are endangered species, including the Atlantic Right Whale, the rarest whale in the world.

Economics: Clean Ocean Economy Threatened

The clean ocean economy is supported by these remarkable marine resources which generates billions of dollars.

New Jersey:

The ocean and iconic Jersey Shore sustains the state's economy with its bounty of natural resources and intrinsic values.

- In 2016, almost 100 million people visited the Jersey Shore.
- Most of New Jersey's \$44.1 billion dollar tourism industry success is generated at the Jersey Shore.
- Over 508,000 jobs depend on tourism.
- NJ commercial and recreational fisheries provide enormous economic benefits, including revenue, food production, and recreational activities. In 2015:
 - o NJ's commercial fishing industry generated \$6 billion in sales
 - o NJ's recreational fishing industry generated \$1.8 billion in sales, including over 4.3 million fishing trips

New York

The gross domestic product (GDP) of New York's ocean economy is \$20 billion.

- NY's commercial fishing sales totaled \$5.3 billion dollars in 2015.
- NY's recreational fishing sales generated \$874 million dollars and NY anglers took 3.2 million fishing trips in 2015.

Puny Scattered Pockets of Oil and Natural Gas

Current BOEM estimates of the amount of technically recoverable fossil fuels are tiny and scattered throughout the entire Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. Even if it could be consolidated into one location, the oil would only last the nation approximately 229 days, and natural gas would only last approximately 477 days.

*Prepared by Clean Ocean Action,
January 25th, 2018*

Fossil Fuels have a Dead End Future and Cause Climate Change



Fossil fuels have no future—once extracted they are gone. They only exist in harder to reach locations where mining is destroying ecosystems and communities. Once used up, they leave behind contaminated land and infrastructure, as well as ruined local economies. Burning fossil fuels exacerbates and accelerates climate change impacts which include flooding coastal towns, increasing storm impacts, warming the ocean, and causing ocean acidification.

Green Energy is the Wave of the Future

Green energy—conservation, efficiency and renewables—generates more jobs and assures a sustainable future.

Uniting to Protect the Ocean

On January 4th, Trump opened 90% of U.S. ocean waters to proposed drilling in the new draft OCS 5-year drilling plan. Reaction from elected officials was swift and furious, and is growing. Over 35 US Senators and over 130 US Representatives in Congress oppose the plan—including 100% of the NJ congressional delegation. Nearly every state Governor (including Murphy and Cuomo) on the Atlantic and Pacific (except Maine and Georgia) has opposed the proposed off-shore drilling plan, and has demanded the “Florida exemption” to be removed from further consideration. While Florida is officially still under consideration, Secretary Zinke has promised that it will be removed in the future.

Case in Point and Cautionary Tale

In February of 2004, the NJ coastline was stained by a “minor” mysterious oil spill which caused wide spread staining and death to marine life. Due to cold temperatures, the No. 6 oil turned into stiff black patties that workers raced to scoop up before an impending nor’easter. Accidents happen. Increasing oil and gas industrialization would only make us more vulnerable! The culprit was never found.



Officials racing to clean up a mysterious No. 6 oil spill off NJ coast in February 2004, before an impending nor’easter.



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In February of 2004, the NJ coastline was stained by a mysterious oil spill that is believed to have come from a passing ship or barge. The No. 6 oil turned into black balls that officials raced to cleanup before an impending nor’easter. There has never been an oil rig off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and yet accidents happen! See below for the dirty aftermath of the NJ shore oil spill by the numbers. Now can you imagine if NJ suffered an oil spill as catastrophic as the BP Deepwater Horizon spill?

2004 NJ Shore Oil Spill by the Numbers

- 30-miles coastline stained and spotted
- 60-miles of beaches where birds were found covered or affected by oil
- 16,000 pounds of oil and debris cleaned from beaches
- 300 – 500 gallons of oil spilled, according to agencies
- 138 birds in rehabilitation
- 55 birds in rehabilitation
- 11 birds released

What if it were millions of gallons? On a summer day? During mammal migration?