



The Quick & Dirty on Offshore Oil Drilling

Currently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is proposing to include North Carolina's coast in its 5-year plan for offshore oil and gas drilling. This is not the first time our slice of the Atlantic has been targeted for offshore drilling. Below find key talking points on why keeping North Carolina's coastal waters **closed to offshore oil and gas drilling** is the best idea for our state's future.

- Oil spills happen. While many people remember two of the largest in our nation's history – Exxon-Valdez (1989) and BP's Deepwater Horizon (2010) – it's important to know that there have been more than **40 major oil spills from offshore drilling** in the past 30 years, spewing **42,000 gallons of toxic waste** into our oceans.
- Hurricanes are a reality for North Carolina's coast and natural contributors of oil spills. In fact, the U.S. government estimates **nearly 125 separate spills** occurred during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.
- Offshore drilling ravages coastal wetlands. According to NC DENR, coastal wetlands are critical in protecting water quality, preventing floods and erosion, and maintaining fish populations. In Louisiana, coastal wetlands are disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles a year. **More than 65% of North Carolina's coastal shoreline is made-up of these precious marsh lands.**
- Fishing, tourism and recreation support roughly **51,000 jobs** and generate more nearly **\$2.2 billion** in GDP for North Carolina. These three industries will face severe revenue losses due to spills and habitat destruction.
- Investing in an ocean-front property will likely no longer pay off. Early estimates predict that negative impacts from offshore drilling activities could reduce property values by between **\$636 million** and **\$4.7 billion dollars.**

Questions or concerns? Please contact us at info@nclcv.org.