



Facts: North Carolina's Economy and Environment Can't Afford the Risk of Offshore Drilling

An Unnecessary Risk to North Carolina's Thriving Tourism

- 3 of North Carolina's top-10 counties for tourism revenue are on the Atlantic Coast.
- North Carolina's coastal counties generate more than \$3 billion in visitor spending, more than 30,000 jobs, and \$300 million in state and local tax revenue from tourism.

Economic Risk with No Reward

- Developed Shorelines expert and Western Carolina University Professor Rob Young studied offshore drilling and exploration and said "it was pretty clear there weren't going to be a lot of economic benefits for North Carolina, particularly for drilling done in federal waters."
- North Carolina's commercial fish landings are worth \$95 million annually, and a group of 75 leading marine scientists said that offshore seismic exploration has been "shown to displace commercial species of fish, with the effect in some fisheries of dramatically depressing catch rates."

North Carolina's Stakeholders Oppose Offshore Drilling

- Nearly 200 businesses, nonprofit organizations and community groups have come out against offshore drilling off NC's coast.
- More than 30 North Carolina municipalities have passed resolutions opposing offshore drilling and seismic exploration.

The Catastrophic Potential Cost of a Spill

- The BP oil spill cost the gulf of Mexico's commercial fishing industry as much as \$1.6 billion in the first 8 months after the spill.
- Ultimately, the BP oil spill cost BP more than \$60 billion in cleanup and economic recovery costs.
- The cap for damages an oil company can be forced to pay for economic damages after an oil spill is a mere \$75 million—unless gross negligence on the part of the company can be proven.

