

2019-2024 Draft Plan Offshore Drilling Talking Points from DontDrillNC.org

Laws, goals and policies of affected states

- In July 2017, Governor Cooper made his opposition to offshore drilling and seismic blasting clear — “not off our coast.”
- Over 30 coastal communities in North Carolina (almost 130 along the Atlantic Coast) have passed resolutions against offshore drilling and seismic blasting. President Trump must listen to the coastal communities, local businesses, and elected officials up and down the Atlantic Coast that oppose offshore drilling.

Economic impacts

- North Carolina’s economy relies on a healthy coast. The fishing, tourism, and recreation industries support roughly 51,000 jobs and generate nearly \$2.2 billion in GDP for North Carolina. We shouldn’t prioritize oil company profits over coastal businesses.
- Offshore drilling would threaten our identity as North Carolinians — our coastal environment, economy and quality of life.
- Tourism and fishing — both commercial and recreational — are the economic backbone of coastal communities. Imagine the impact on beachside hotels and restaurants, fishing outfitters and realtors if our beautiful coastal communities were turned over to big oil.
- The oil and gas industry’s economic projections are based on faulty assumptions that overestimate jobs and income, while discounting the existing tourism- and recreation-based economies.

Environmental risks

- North Carolina’s coast is home to a number of endangered and threatened species including the loggerhead sea turtle and North Atlantic right whale.
- The National Wildlife Refuges, National Seashores, state protected areas and ecologically sensitive marine areas along North Carolina’s coast are too precious to risk.
- Instead of spending our resources developing dirty energy sources, North Carolina should instead develop clean, renewable energy sources. North Carolina has more wind energy potential than any other state on the Atlantic coast.

Making a comment at a public hearing: Use the talking points above to create your message.

Comments are most compelling when they include something personal in addition to facts. Are you a business owner? A lifelong coastal resident? How would you be negatively impacted by offshore drilling? What’s your connection to the coast?

Submitting a written comment: Use the talking points and any applicable personal stories to write a comment. You can fill out a comment card or submit your comment online at

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=BOEM-2017-0050-0001> Comments are due on Aug. 17.