



Offshore Drilling is Wrong for North Carolina!

A Thriving, Yet Fragile Coastal Economy

- NC's coastal tourism industry generated over \$6.8 billion in 2023, supporting over 30,000 jobs
- Commercial and recreational fishing added \$2.5 billion in 2022 and tens of thousands of jobs.
- Offshore drilling could permanently damage this economy through spills and industrialization.

Offshore Drilling is Devastating to Marine Life

- Seismic blasting, used to locate oil deposits, can harm or kill marine life — including fish, zooplankton (the base of the food web), and up to 138,000 marine mammals, per BOEM's own data.
- Drilling infrastructure threatens nesting sea turtles, migrating whales, and vital fish nurseries like the Pamlico/Albemarle Estuary — the second-largest estuarine system in the continental U.S.

Critical Habitat is at Stake

- The coast is now part of protected habitat for the endangered North Atlantic right whale — as of 2024, fewer than 370 remained worldwide.
- Drilling could also impact the biologically rich waters off Cape Hatteras, where the Gulf Stream and Labrador Current meet.

Spills are Inevitable — and Expensive

- "When you drill, you spill." The 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster cost \$65 billion in damages — more than NC's annual state budget.
- Even small, routine spills and toxic discharge harm ecosystems and erode public trust in coastal safety.

Minimal Energy, Massive Risk

- The Atlantic holds only 0.5% of the world's oil — and would supply just 36 days of U.S. demand.