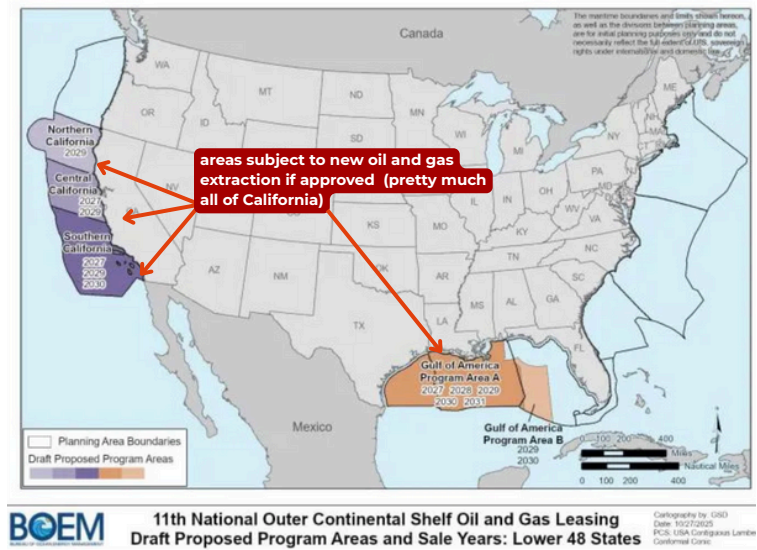


URGENT ACTION:

*The federal government is considering a new nationwide offshore drilling plan that would open U.S. waters—including **nearly the entire coast of California**—to expanded oil and gas operations.*

If approved, this plan would have catastrophic consequences. Offshore drilling threatens marine life, fisheries, coastal economies, and the ability of millions to safely surf, swim, fish, paddle, and enjoy clean beaches. Expanding drilling would put hundreds of miles of coastline—and critically endangered species—at risk!



As of Dec 2nd, *only about 1k public comments* have been submitted on the official BOEM site— an alarmingly low number for a decision of this scale - WE NEED hundreds of thousands of comments!! If not, the administration can claim there was “little public opposition” — and push new drilling forward.

This cannot be taken lightly. Regardless of political background, this is about protecting our coastlines, our health, and our ability to safely recreate and enjoy the ocean.

The deadline to comment is January 23, 2026.

Please take two minutes to submit the public comment below—and share this widely with your community. We need every voice to help protect our coasts.

How to Submit Your Comment (2–3 Minutes)

1. **Click this link:** [FEDERAL REGISTER](#)
[BOEM](#)

- Click “Submit a Formal Comment.” The green button is near the top of the page!



2. **Copy + Paste the Comment you can use this → →**

- Copy the full comment text from this document and paste it into the comment box.
- personalize (Optional but Powerful)

3. **Sign, Submit — and Share**

- Add your name, city, and state, then click Submit Comment.

Plz repost and send this link to as many people as possible!! [Visit Surfrider.org_campaign](#) for more info regarding this matter

DRAFT COMMENT EXAMPLE (YOU MAY COPY AND PASTE THIS)

I am writing to strongly oppose any new offshore oil and gas leasing in the upcoming 5-Year Offshore Oil & Gas Leasing Program. Opening additional areas of the U.S. coastline to offshore drilling would pose significant and unacceptable risks to marine ecosystems, coastal communities, public health, and our nation's long-term climate resilience.

Offshore drilling threatens the health of our ocean and the biodiversity it supports. Oil spills—whether catastrophic blowouts or chronic leaks—cause long-term damage to marine habitats, fisheries, shorebirds, marine mammals, coral and kelp ecosystems, and the thousands of species that depend on clean water. Even routine drilling operations release toxic pollutants, industrial noise, and wastewater discharges that degrade water quality and disrupt wildlife behavior, reproduction, and migration.

These impacts extend directly to human communities. Coastal residents and visitors face increased exposure to hazardous air pollutants, contaminated waters, beach closures, and degraded public spaces following drilling-related incidents. Fossil-fuel extraction and processing are linked to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and disproportionate impacts on low-income and frontline communities already burdened by environmental harm.

Coastal economies would also suffer. Clean beaches, healthy oceans, and intact coastal ecosystems support billions of dollars in economic activity every year across tourism, outdoor recreation, hospitality, commercial and recreational fishing, and small businesses that rely on healthy ocean conditions. A single spill can close beaches for months, damage property values, harm fishing grounds, and undercut the foundation of coastal economies that rely on safe, clean, and accessible coastlines.

Recreational access and public safety are also at stake. Millions of people nationwide rely on clean, thriving coastlines for surfing, swimming, paddling, diving, boating, and countless other forms of outdoor recreation. Oil pollution and degraded water quality place coastal visitors at risk and diminish the ability of community organizations, recreation programs, and volunteer groups to engage safely with the coast. Our coasts are among the nation's most valuable public spaces, and they must be protected for future generations to enjoy. New offshore leasing would also lock the nation into long-term fossil-fuel dependence at a moment when the science is clear: we must accelerate, not delay, the transition to renewable energy. The United States is already a net oil exporter, and oil companies hold thousands of unused offshore leases. New leasing is unnecessary to meet national energy needs and directly undermines the country's climate commitments.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Administration to exclude all new offshore oil and gas leasing from the upcoming 5-Year Program. Protecting our coasts, our climate, our communities, and our shared natural heritage must be a national priority.

Sincerely,
[NAME]

The inconvenient truth about drilling off our coast and oil spill impacts:

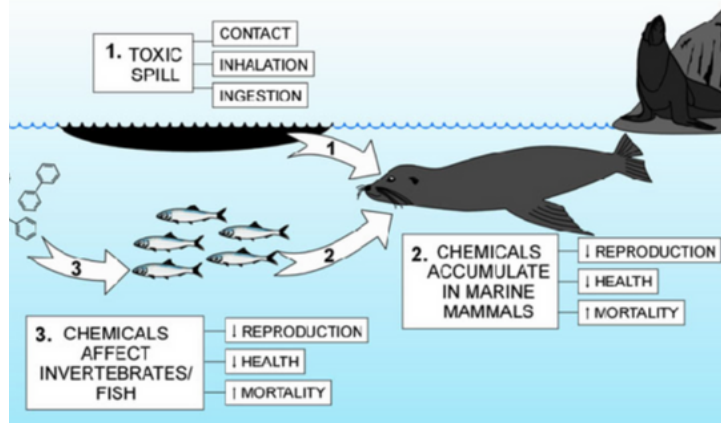
- **oil spills cause PAH buildup in fish and seafood** — PAHs (like benzo[a]pyrene) are known carcinogens linked to long-term **cancer risk**
- major spills like the BP Deepwater Horizon **killed over 1 million seabirds**, marine mammals, invertebrates, and likely hundreds of millions of fish — **true mortality far higher than reported**
- government and industry never providing full impact totals — *most animals never wash ashore, so carcass counts capture only a small fraction of deaths*
- deep-sea, offshore, and remote-coast ecosystems never fully surveyed, leaving **massive losses undocumented**
- **hundreds of miles** of coastal and marine habitats **permanently damaged** - ecosystem **recovery taking decades**, often never returning to pre-spill conditions
- **severe economic harm** to small businesses, fishing families, coastal communities, and millions who rely on clean, safe beaches
- **billions of dollars in lost tourism and recreation revenue**: beach closures, fishery shutdowns, halted surf lessons/camps, canceled fishing trips, whale watching, coastal tourism
 - For example, the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf (2010) caused an economic fallout: studies estimate up to **\$22.7 billion in lost tourism revenue** and **roughly \$8.4 billion in commercial and recreational fishing losses** across the Gulf Coast — that's just from one spill event that had decades of impacts long after the spill.



Refugio Oil Spill, California (2015): Thick crude oil blankets the coastline after a pipeline rupture contaminated miles of Santa Barbara's shoreline, killing wildlife and shutting down beaches and fisheries.



Volunteers and responders scrape oil from the intertidal zone—Santa Barbara, CA.



Oil Exposure Pathways in Marine Wildlife



Aftermath of BP Deepwater Horizon: Marine wildlife mortality extended far beyond U.S. waters.

Airborne Pollutants' Effects on Health

Each step of the oil extraction process can emit climate-forcing pollutants. Some of the main pollutants of concern—methane, black carbon, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ozone—pack a powerful punch for the climate, and for human health.

HEALTH IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS

Methane

Exposure can trigger headaches and dizziness, nausea, vomiting and weakness.

Particulate matter (including black carbon)

Studies link it to premature death in people with heart and lung disease, irregular heartbeat and heart attacks, and worsened asthma and respiratory problems.

VOCs

Many are cancerous, and long-term exposure can harm the kidneys, liver and nervous system. Short-term exposure can disrupt vision, cause respiratory and skin irritation, and nausea, headaches and dizziness.

Ozone

This pollutant can irritate the lungs and throat and spark breathing problems like asthma. Long-term exposure can lead to permanent lung damage.

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