



Coastal resources: an overview of California's offshore oil and gas industry

For much of the past century, the coastal oil and gas industry in California has played an important role in our state's economic growth, lifestyles, technological and industrial development, history and culture.

- *The offshore oil and gas industry is an important part of California's thriving economy. In 1997, oil and gas producers directly employed 38,000 people in California, 4,000 of them in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.*
- *Offshore oil and gas producers have an excellent record of protecting the environment. The 1969 oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast created a new awareness of the need for strict oversight, protection, training and technology. Thirty years since that ecological disaster, California's offshore oil and gas industry is one of the most highly regulated and environmentally sensitive industries in the world.*
- *Offshore oil and gas activities since 1969 have had little measurable effect on the healthy marine environment off the California coast.*
- *Industry-sponsored cooperatives and agencies provide immediate oil spill response capabilities along the California coast. These cooperatives provide 24-hour stand-by response services to deal quickly with any type of marine release – whether from a vessel, pipeline or platform.*
- *Technology has brought about significant improvements in the environmental protection and safety records of offshore oil and gas platforms.*
- *The offshore oil and gas industry has been, and continues to be, a major source of funds for California's education system. These funds come from state and federal royalties, state income and corporate taxes, property taxes, and local fees.*
- *Offshore oil development has provided more than \$1 billion to federal, state, and local governments for parks, nature preserves, historic preservation, interpretive centers, and recreational facilities, including bicycle trails, swimming pools, and community centers.*
- *Clean-burning natural gas is a major product of the state's offshore industry.*