

Ocean Protection is Economic Security

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The National Ocean Economics Program's "State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies Report" shows that tourism and recreation are the principle drivers of coastal economies, accounting for 75 percent of the jobs in California's ocean economy. The study also found that commercial fishing revenues had declined 43 percent between 1997 and 2007 (the time period analyzed in the report). Fortunately, commercial fishing accounts for just 2.5% of revenue in California's ocean economy.

In California, non-consumptive coastal visitors (people that come to walk on the beach, swim in the ocean, surf, SCUBA dive, visit tide pools and watch birds and other marine life) spend 40 times more than those who visit exclusively to fish or collect sea life.

With coastal economic activities accounting for 83 percent of the U.S. economy, ocean protection is good for business. And with fishing and other consumptive activities in decline, it is even more crucial to invest in the natural resources that drive tourism and recreation.

The National Ocean Economics Program report states that the non-market economic value of U.S. ocean and coastal resources is likely over \$100 billion. A science-based network of Marine Protected Areas can help safeguard those valuable resources and support the long-term economic vitality of coastal communities.

Below is a summary of the key findings from the report*:

- More than 103 million Americans participated in coastal recreation in 2007.
- Nationwide, coastal tourism and recreation dominated both employment and GDP in the ocean economy sectors with 1.7 million jobs (75 percent) and nearly \$70 billion (51 percent) of GDP.
- Between 1997 and 2007, ¾ of U.S. growth in population, jobs and GDP was in coastal states.
- California's coast and ocean generate \$22 billion in revenue and over 350,000 jobs each year
- 75% of California's ocean-related jobs, and 54% of revenue, come from tourism and recreation.
- In 2007, California commercial fisheries landings were 384 million pounds, down 43 percent from 1,118 pounds in 2000. The value dropped from \$276.5 million to \$120.2 million.
- Shore adjacent counties are where the real concentration of U.S. economic activity occurs. With only 18% of U.S. land areas, these counties accounted for 36% of population and 42% of the national economic output in 2007.



**Source: Kildow, Judith; Colgan, Charles; and Scorse, Jason. State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies, 2009. National Ocean Economics Program.*