South Carolina’s Ocean Economy

Ocean-related industries contribute significantly to the state’s economy and continue to grow.

The 6 Ocean Economy Industries

- Tourism and Recreation
- Marine Construction
- Ship and Boat Building
- Living Marine Resources
- Offshore Energy and Mineral Extraction
- Marine Transportation

Tourism and Recreation

- Hotels, Marinas, Restaurants
- Bulkheads, Piers, Jetties

Offshore Energy and Mineral Extraction

- Wind Energy, Sand Mining, Exploration

Marine Construction

- Construction, Repair

Ship and Boat Building

- Construction

Living Marine Resources

- Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture, Seafood Processing

Marine Transportation

- Freight, Cruise Ships, Ports, Harbors

12% OF COASTAL COUNTY TOTAL

Added to GDP in 2019

- $4.69 BILLION
- $509 million
- $301 million
- $140 million
- $48 million
- $23 million

$5.7 BILLION

Ocean Economy Industries Added Billions to South Carolina’s Gross Domestic Product in 2019

Ocean Economy Employment Continued to Increase in 2019

88,790 JOBS*

12% OF COASTAL COUNTY TOTAL

What is Gross Domestic Product?

Real GDP is the total market value of all goods and services produced within a given economy over a given time. Real GDP is also adjusted for inflation.

876% Growth Since 2009

From 2009-2019, South Carolina’s ocean economy real GDP grew 76%, compared to 29% for the entire state economy.

The Ocean Economy Boosted Recovery from the Recession

The Sustainability of the Ocean Economy Relies on the Natural Environment

Economic growth must be balanced with environmental conservation to protect the health of the natural resources upon which the ocean economy depends.

Read the full report on South Carolina’s Ocean Economy at scseagrant.org/oe-report


From 2009-2019, Ocean economy employment (including self-employed workers) grew by 40%, compared to 21% for all types of employment in the state.

From 2009-2019, Ocean Economy Employment Outpaced State Employment After the Recession

Ocean Economy Employment

40% Growth

2009-2019

Total State Employment

21% Growth

2009-2019

What is Gross Domestic Product?

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