



# COASTAL TOURISM IN LOUISIANA AND SOUTH CAROLINA A COMPARISON

The **Tourism Spending in Louisiana Parishes 2016** report was prepared by Maria J. Ortiz, Project Manager in the Hospitality Research Center (HRC) at The University of New Orleans (UNO). Tourism spending in the eight coastal parishes (Cameron, Iberia, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Mary, Terrebonne and Vermilion) totaled \$563,320,000 in 2016, down from \$622,480,000 in 2015.

The four main coastal counties in South Carolina -- Horry, Georgetown, Charleston and Beaufort -- have accounted for at least 71% of the statewide Accommodations Tax revenue for the last eight fiscal years. According to SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, statewide tourist spending was \$21,200,000,000 in 2016, with \$15,073,000,000 being spent in these four counties.

While Louisiana coastal parish tourism spending declined 10% from 2015 to 2016, South Carolina tourism spending increased 4.7% from 2015 to 2016. SC coastal ATax collections rose another 10% in 2017.

**So, can coastal tourism co-exist with offshore drilling? The economics indicate that tourism spending on the unspoiled Atlantic coast of South Carolina was more than 26 times greater than what was spent on the ruined Gulf of Mexico coast in Louisiana in 2016.**

Tom Stickler  
SODA Core Team  
29 January 2018

Parish	Tourism Spending		
	2015	2016	
Cameron	\$ 3	\$ 2	
Iberia	\$ 49	\$ 46	
Lafourche	\$ 75	\$ 77	
Plaquemines	\$ 106	\$ 99	
St. Bernard	\$ 76	\$ 64	
St. Mary	\$ 61	\$ 59	
Terrebonne	\$ 224	\$ 190	
Vermilion	\$ 29	\$ 27	
Total	\$ 622	\$ 563	<b>millions</b>
<b>SC Coastal</b>	<b>\$14,342</b>	<b>\$15,421</b>	<b>millions</b>