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## **How Waterfront States and Cities are Harnessing Their Blue Economies.**

**Communities are becoming strategic about planning the use of their shorelines rather than relying solely on tourism and recreation to generate water-related revenue.**

A growing handful of coastal states, cities and counties are focusing their economic development efforts on industries that rely on the ocean.

Participants in the so-called “blue economy,” shoreside communities contributed \$385 billion to the gross domestic product in 2019 and supported 3 million jobs in more than 20 marine industries, including fishing, tourism, off-shore oil drilling and boat building, according to the [Center for the Blue Economy](#) in Monterey, California.

Although 30 states and 1,000 counties abut an ocean or another major body of water, some states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington and Alaska, along with coastal cities like Gulfport, Mississippi and San Diego, have, over the past few years, become strategic about planning the use of their shorelines rather than relying solely on tourism and recreation to generate water-related revenue.

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### **Route Fifty**

By Sharon O'Malley

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