



In Case You Missed It...

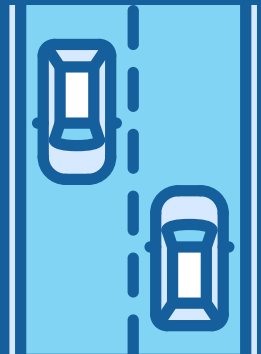
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: AS OIL PRICES CRASHED, TANKERS IDLED OFF CALIFORNIA— SPEWING POLLUTION FOR WEEKS

A recent National Geographic analysis highlighted the environmental risks of an over-reliance on imported oil, which is produced without California's strict regulations and comes from countries that do not pay California taxes or support our humanitarian values:

"Giant ships lurked off the California coast for weeks in April and May, their bellies full of up to 20 million barrels of oil. This floating cache, enough to support the energy needs of the entire U.S. for a day, sat aboard an idling fleet that pumped out tons of pollutants, according to a new analysis performed by the University of College London and shared with National Geographic. These emissions could ultimately affect the long-term health of coastal communities—many of them already at risk and underserved—and they added tons of climate-warming carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.



**The tanker ships pumped out up to
600 METRIC TONS OF CO2 EACH DAY
-- equivalent to
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"Based on their analysis, Tristan Smith and Camilo Velandia Perico at University College London estimate that every day this 24-ship fleet idled, it spit out six tons of nitrogen pollutants, a quarter ton of sulfur pollutants, and about 290 pounds of PM2.5—the fine particles that have been correlated with higher risk of lung and heart diseases, as well as with worse outcomes from COVID-19. The tankers' PM2.5 emissions amount to a third of what the Port of Los Angeles, one of the largest sources of pollution in the city, produces on an average day. The ships also pumped out up to 600 metric tons of CO2 each day—equivalent to 68,000 daily car trips for Angelenos

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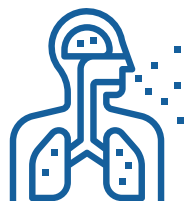
"Over the following weeks, the number of tankers fluctuated, dipping down to 19 at the end of April and back up to 23 in early May. Only by mid-May did the numbers dip to the low teens, where they have stayed since. But if the UCL data can serve as an upper estimate, then the extra oil tankers may have added up to 15,000 tons of planet-warming CO2 and 7,250 pounds of lung-harming PM2.5 during their month or so of idling.



Nearly two dozen tanker ships idling off the coast near the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles on April 23, 2020.
Photo source: US Coast Guard Los Angeles

"...in 2008, a study for the California Air Resources Board found that ship emissions made up roughly 25 percent of the Los Angeles basin's sulfur pollution load, 4 percent of the nitrogen pollutants, and less than one percent of the fine particles. The impacts weren't subtle: The scientists could essentially track the path of a ship motoring down the coast from Ventura toward Los Angeles if they looked at the stations along the way that monitored ozone, a pollutant formed from chemical reactions among the sulfur and nitrogen pollution."

To read this story in its entirety, visit:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/06/coronavirus-oil-prices-crashed-tankers-idled-california-spewing-pollution/>



The extra tankers may have added up to 15,000 TONS OF PLANET-WARMING CO₂ AND 7,250 POUNDS OF LUNG-HARMING PM_{2.5} during their month or so of idling.