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New Report Finds 750+ Oil Slicks in Mediterranean Sea Revealing Chronic Pollution Problem

**Greece, Home of ‘Our Ocean Conference’ Which Started Today, Had
Highest Number of Slicks in Its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**

(Athens, Greece - April 15, 2024) - A new report released today at the Our Ocean Conference in Greece by [SkyTruth](#), a nonprofit conservation technology organization, identified 757 oil slicks covering 1.9 million hectares in the Mediterranean Sea between July 2020 - January 2024. Most of these slicks were discharged from vessels in transit. The data comes from their new online platform, [Cerulean](#), the first free, digital tool that uses AI and satellite imagery to track ocean oil pollution and its potential culprits.

The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Greece, where the Conference is taking place, had the highest number of slicks (182), followed by Italy (163) and Egypt (102). The full report - **Mediterranean Sea Chronic Oil Pollution Analysis: July 2020-January 2024** - can be found [here](#). Hi-res graphics from the report illustrating the key findings can be downloaded [here](#).

“Greece is plagued by this pollution problem, but it’s hardly alone,” said **John Amos, CEO of SkyTruth**. “This is a global issue that will take international cooperation and vigorous, transparent action to address. Vessels dumping toxic oil into the ocean is not new, but our ability to detect this formerly hidden behavior with Cerulean now leaves polluters nowhere to hide. Raising visibility is the first step to solving the problem.”

Additional Key Findings from Today’s Report:

- Six flag states – Marshall Islands, Panama, Malta, Singapore, Liberia, and Togo – were associated with over 60% of slicks by identifiable vessels.
- Six repeat polluters were associated with more than one oil slick. These vessels included a container ship flagged by Egypt and oil/chemical tankers flagged by Hong Kong, Panama, Russia, Marshall Islands, and Liberia.

- Two minimally-protected marine protected areas (MPAs) – the Mediterranean Cetacean Migration Corridor and the Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals – saw the greatest number of oil slicks inside their borders.

The Mediterranean Sea is a biodiversity hotspot, home to approximately [11%](#) of all marine species in less than [1%](#) of the global marine area. Furthermore, around [20%](#) of these species exist only in the Mediterranean. [This includes](#) whales, dolphins, porpoises, loggerhead and green turtles, monk seals, and more than 80 species of sharks and rays. Despite its immense importance to the global ecosystem, the Sea is facing huge pollution-related risks and is already warming [20% faster](#) than the global ocean average due to climate change. Over the last 50 years, marine mammal populations in the region have decreased by [41%](#).

MPAs were created to protect this unique nature hub, but there is still a long road to go before regulation efforts are sufficient to meet the goals enumerated in the 30x30 target. Adopted in 2022 by nearly 200 nations, the 30x30 agreement aims to protect 30% of the world's ocean and land areas by 2030 ("30x30").

In support of that effort and in addition to the Mediterranean analysis, SkyTruth also today released the "[30x30 Progress Tracker](#)," a new digital platform bringing together key marine biodiversity data. With support from the [Bloomberg Ocean Initiative](#), the Tracker is the first free, interactive platform designed for the general public to see -- at a glance -- how well the world is doing in enhancing ocean protection globally in line with the 30x30 goal. The platform can be used by civil society campaigns to accelerate country-by-country participation, and by government agencies and policymakers to gain insights on 30x30 and track regional and global progress. The goal is to make information about 30x30 more accessible and transparent to everyone, particularly people in communities impacted by this ambitious conservation initiative.

"At SkyTruth we aim to make the invisible, visible," said Amos. "At Our Ocean we're hoping to raise awareness about chronic oil pollution as well as efforts to protect marine biodiversity. The first step to progressing on these issues is for people to be aware."

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Draft Social Media Posts

- New SkyTruth Report Released at Our Ocean Finds 750+ Oil Slicks in Mediterranean Sea Revealing Chronic Pollution Problem. #SkyTruth #Cerulean #sustainability #nowheretohide @ouroceangreece <https://wp.me/p9Qu4m-aSd>

- The 9th annual #OurOcean Conference is happening in Greece April 15-17. All attendees (and anyone interested in #sustainability) should read the new SkyTruth report finding 750+ oil slicks in the Mediterranean Sea that reveal chronic pollution problems. #SkyTruth #Cerulean #nowheretohide @ouroceangreece <https://wp.me/p9Qu4m-aSd>
- #SUSTAINABILITY NEWS: New report finds 750+ oil slicks in the Med Sea revealing chronic pollution problem. #SkyTruth's new game-changing tool can help address the problem with free, real-time data that's critical for effective #conservation efforts. <https://skytruth.org/cerulean/>