

**Robert Hickey**

**In the news #x**

**Article title: How 16 ships create as much pollution as all the cars in the world.**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1229857/How-16-ships-create-pollution-cars-world.html>

- ❖ Ships pollute. A lot.
  - Only getting worse as more and more is shipped
  - Burn very cheap fuel
    - Which is often not allowed on-land
    - Very high sulphur (and other stuff not mentioned) – except smoke/particulates
      - Health risks
  - International Maritime Organization (a UN body) theoretically regulates.
    - Fought change.
    - Recent change to reduce sulphur. Eventually.
      - Meanwhile, nearly a million more folks will die
  - Also churn out CO<sub>2</sub>. But shipping (and airlines) are exempt from what few policies there are.
  - Companies claim poverty – ships often registered in 3<sup>rd</sup> world companies. For convenience.
  - Solutions include better fuel, better engines, and going slower.

At first glance, it was surprising to me how much ships pollute. However, upon thinking about it and learning about what type fuel they use, I was far less surprised. Overall, the article was reasonably well written. However, far too much information was simply missing. For example, why should anyone care about sulphur (acid rain). What are the other pollutants in bunker fuel? Why should we care? What can we do? The article simply says that ships pollute a lot and are exempt from most rules.

Reading articles like this make me want to buy American products and foodstuffs. The ecological footprint is far less for things made in America (assuming they aren't simply assembled here from bits imported from around the world). It also make me wish for stronger international controls on many things. Yes, that reduces to some degree national independence – but the world today is highly connected. These ships pollute my air, not just the air somewhere else.