

Impacts of International Trade & Freight Transport



From across the world to you

International trade means thousands of ships traveling across oceans to reach consumers. Sometimes a product will have traveled by ship, train and truck up to 8,000 miles.

8,000 miles

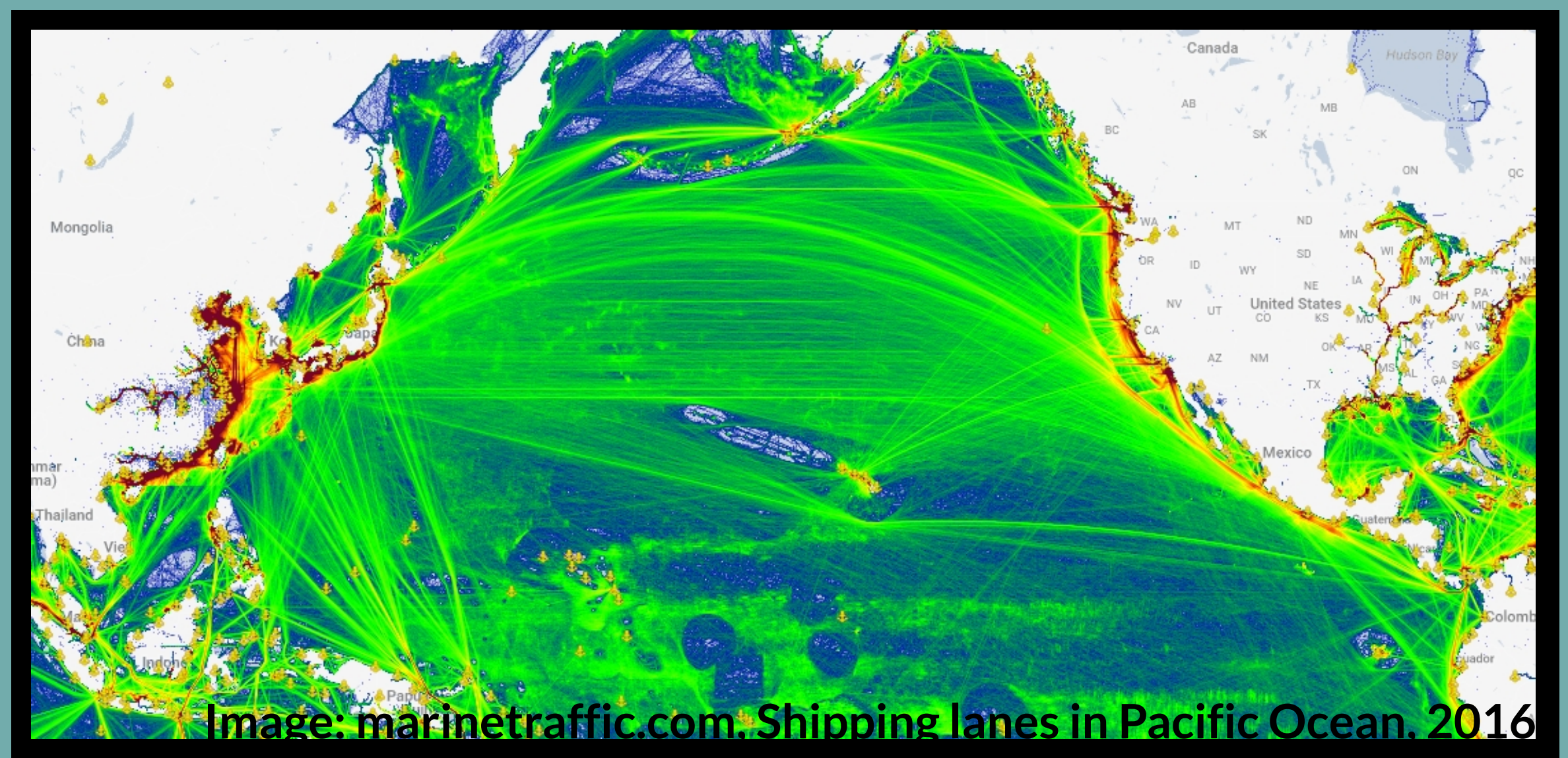


Image: marinetraffic.com. Shipping lanes in Pacific Ocean, 2016

Shipping emissions cause tens of thousands of deaths a year around the world



Producing the goods

Factory workers in Asia are exposed to many toxic chemicals during production

Air and Water pollution from factories increase health risks in nearby communities



#1 top import into L.A. from China: computers

Shipping of goods

The process moving goods from trucks and trains to ships emits harmful pollutants
Exposed workers are at risk of cancer, heart and lung problems.

Shipping could be responsible for 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 if left unregulated.



USC Environmental Health Centers

Infographic: Wendy Gutschow/USC



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Ports: transferring the goods

At ports, longshore workers breathe in polluted air from idling ships and rows trucks.

Workers and communities effected by this process face exposure to diesel exhaust which can increase the risk of:

- asthma
- lung cancer
- respiratory illnesses
- heart disease
- allergies



Truck transport

Most containers leave the ports on diesel trucks to different destinations like distribution centers, local rail yards, and transload centers near ports. These facilities are often located in communities of color close to ports and distribution centers.



35,000 truck trips per day to and from the Ports of L.A. and Long Beach on the

I-710 - the 23 mile interstate highway in LA, connecting the ports with the railyards

Trains & railyards

Noisy, diesel locomotives pull containers from trucks to rail cars at railyards with 24/7 high intensity lighting. These are often located in low income communities of color.



Distribution centers

Products arrive at distribution centers before their final destination to a store or customer. These facilities draw thousands of diesel trucks a day into formerly rural communities or agricultural land.



Some solutions

- Prioritize human health in planning and expansion of goods movement facilities
- Mandate buffer zones between freight facilities and communities/schools
- Mandate air pollution filters in buildings if buffer zones are not possible



- Mandate “zero emissions technologies”
- Advance the climate justice movement
- Prevent rollbacks of air pollution regulations
- Build national networks to connect advocates trying to reduce health & community impacts from freight transport