

Joosten, Sandy

From: Ken Buesseler <kbuesseler@whoi.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 03, 2014 11:48 AM
To: Buesseler, Ken
Subject: NY Times letter on lack of consideration of ocean impacts in NAS Fukushima study

Hi-
I thought you might be interested that a new NAS study that came out on lessons learned from Fukushima. A NYT article on that study and the report are linked in my letter today, where I urged consideration of the oceans in any discussion of Fukushima impacts.
Cheers, Ken



LETTER

Ocean Radioactivity

A marine radiochemist urges more study of ocean contamination from nuclear accidents.

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THE OPINION PAGES | LETTER

Ocean Radioactivity

AUG. 2, 2014

To the Editor:

Your article about lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi disaster (“Nuclear Plants Should Focus on Risks Posed by External Events,” news article, July 25) was based on a new report by the National Academy of Sciences. What is missing from the article and the report is a discussion of ocean contamination.

Fukushima constituted the largest unintentional release of radioactivity into the ocean in history. Public concerns in the United States over the safety of seafood and the marine environment have grown, given that ocean currents are predicted to be bringing low-level contamination to our shores this year.

The general lack of a United States government effort to monitor radiation along the West Coast has only increased public anxieties. As a marine radiochemist, I have relied on private foundations and even crowdsourcing (ourradioactiveocean.org) to track Fukushima radiation arriving on our shores.

With more than 20 nuclear reactors near American coasts and many more around the world’s oceans, surely one of the key lessons is the need to expand our understanding of what constitutes an appropriate level of both preparedness and response, including studies of ocean radioactivity.

KEN BUESSELER

Woods Hole, Mass., July 28, 2014

The writer is director of the Center for Marine and Environmental Radioactivity at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.