

BERTHOLLET'S PRESS REVIEW

Japan's Controversial Decision to Release Fukushima Wastewater into the Ocean

By Julie, Adélie, Alexin

Fukushima: What are the concerns over waste water released ?

August 25, 2023

Since the 2011 disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant, water has been used everyday to cool down reactors. Those waste waters are kept by Tepco, an electric power company, in huge tanks.

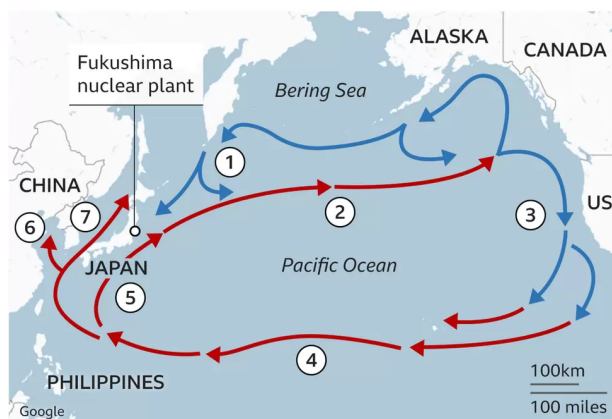
On August 24, Japan's government decided to let Tepco release waste water in the sea after having filtered and diluted waters. This operation, authorized by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), will last 30 years.

This decision is controversial in Japan, among scientists and between states.

[Fukushima: What are the concerns over waste water release? - BBC News](#)

Currents carry water around the Pacific

— Cold current — Warm current



- ① Oyashio Current
- ② North Pacific Current
- ③ California Current
- ④ North Equatorial Current
- ⑤ Kuroshio Current
- ⑥ Yellow Sea warm Current
- ⑦ Tsushima warm Current

Source: Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency, American Meteorological Society.

BBC

Fukushima discharge plan: an act of 'putting money above human life'?

July 06, 2023

Japan plans to release treated radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the ocean, despite concerns. Critics argue that Japan chose the ocean release option for cost-saving, while safer alternatives exist. TEPCO cites financial difficulties as a reason, estimating the ocean release to cost \$14-28 million compared to higher costs for other methods. The Fukushima disaster in 2011 led to this situation, with the cleanup ongoing. Critics question the adequacy of the International Atomic Energy Agency's standards for the treated water.

[Fukushima discharge plan: an act of 'putting money above human life'?](#)



China's concern about nuclear wastewater may be more about politics than science

September 8, 2023

China started a campaign on social media and on news media to blame waste water released in Japan. China's foreign ministry accused Japan of being "a saboteur of the ecological system and polluter of the global marine environments". However, most scientists assert that the discharge of these waters does not represent any danger to marine biodiversity. While the US and the UK have supported Japan's release plan as safe, China contested it. This would then be indicative of China's weaknesses and its tumultuous relationship with Japan.

<https://time.com/6311984/china-japan-nuclear-wastewater-science-politics/>

