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Bracing seaside air could carry deadly pollution from ships

Sea breezes may actually contain a toxic cocktail of pollution caused by ferries, container ships and other sea traffic



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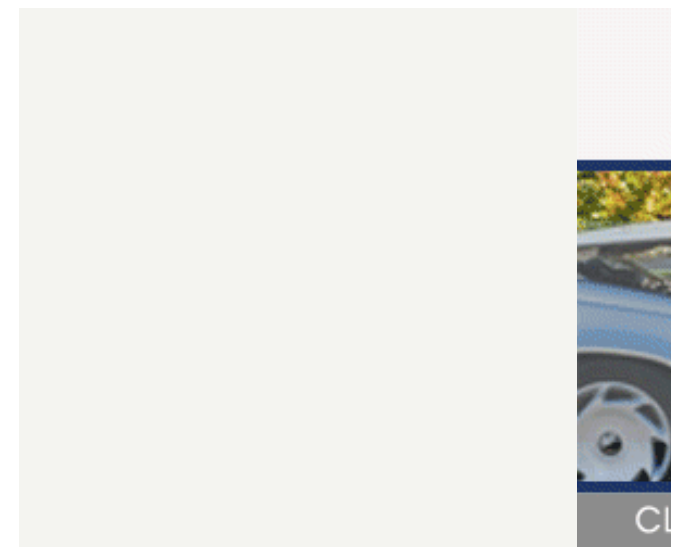
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A walk by the beach might seem a health option but do you know what you are breathing in? Photo: Getty



By [Sarah Knapton](#), Science Editor

5:41PM GMT 23 Nov 2015

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A breezy stroll along the beach breathing in lungfuls of fresh sea air is



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A bracing **stroll along the beach** breathing in whiffs of fresh sea air is widely considered to be beneficial to health.

But a new study suggests that refreshing sea breezes may actually contain a toxic cocktail of pollution caused by ferries, container ships and other sea traffic.

A study of the air along coastal areas for the specialist science journal Oceanologia discovered high levels of 'hazardous nanoparticles' which can penetrate the lungs and cause heart disease and other ailments.

"I imagine the situation is worse for the English Channel, since we quite often have south-westerly winds"

Adam Kristensson, Lund University



The south coast of England is likely to suffer the most from coastal pollution because of south westerly winds blowing up from mainland Europe.

An analysis of these particles of pollution found at least half is made up of fuel and other emissions from seagoing vessels - just as city

pollution is made up of cars, lorries and other land-based traffic.

From ferries and fishing boats to trawlers and tankers to container ships and cruise liners, the sea winds blow much of their emissions on to the shore but in particles so tiny they are easier to breathe in.



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Ferries pump particulates into the air Photo: Alamy

Other pollutants from land-based factories and cars as well as naturally forming chemicals in the atmosphere merge with the sea-based particles to form a deadly cocktail for those living in coastal areas, said the study.

It shatters the image of sea air being as healthy as it is often portrayed, said Adam Kristensen, researcher in aerosol technology from Sweden's Lund

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Adam Kristensson, researcher in aerosol technology from **Sweden's Lund University**.

His team studied air flow across coastal areas of southern Sweden to find the particles often travel many hundreds of miles to reach a coastal area.

Pollution from the North Sea and Baltic Sea could be contributing factors in up to 10,000 premature deaths a year, added Kristensson, but no one can be sure without analysing the make-up of the nanoparticles.



Fuel from trawlers can cause pollution Photo: REUTERS

He said: "This is the first time an attempt has been made to estimate the proportion of nanoparticles stemming from sea traffic.

"The different types of nanoparticles have previously not been distinguished,



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but this new method makes it possible.

"Previously, we thought that land-based pollution from northern European countries and emissions of natural particles from the surface of the sea accounted for a much larger proportion."

"The occasions are more rare when we have easterly winds from the North Sea reaching Great Britain. I imagine the situation is worse for the English Channel, since we quite often have south-westerly winds going from the **Channel towards southern England**, and there is a lot of ship traffic in the English Channel."

The researchers hope the findings will back the fight for stricter caps on shipping fuel emissions which contain nitrogen oxides and sulphates.



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Gigi Hadid and Karlie Kloss lead a bevy of models and celebrities who are partial to slashed, sheer and slit outfits



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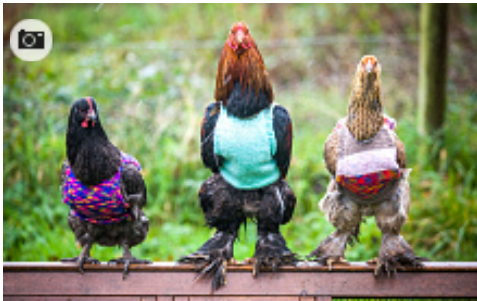
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In pics: Belgium police continue the search for Paris attackers



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Starbucks' secret menu - the drinks you didn't know you can ask for



There are over 87,000 different drink combinations at Starbucks, according to the coffee retailer's website. How many of them do you know? From flu remedies to Harry Potter-inspired beverages, we highlight the weird and the wonderful brews and infusions.

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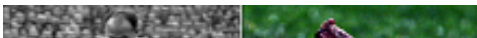
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In pics: Gunmen take hostages at Radisson Blu in Bamako

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of one of football's greatest club rivalries on Saturday. **Ben Findon** looks back at 10 classic Clasicos

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dogdays1 • 6 hours ago

I think all the Greenies should take note of this article and not visit the seaside next summer for the more sensible people to enjoy themselves.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Malcolm Stevas · 7 hours ago

What with this, plus the dangers posed by coffee and red wine and red meat, it's a won have. We're all doomed...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

ninefingers62 · 8 hours ago

"I imagine the situation is worse for the English Channel, since we quite often have sou the Channel towards southern England, and there is a lot of ship traffic in the English C why are there so many healthy pensioners in Bournemouth ? I have a sneaking suspici another study produced to ensure more funding. In the old days of sea transport, after s ships burning coal far in excess of the present larger vessels consumption of oil. Strang on the South coast of England did not die despite the English Channel being the (as it is in the world.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Zydor · 9 hours ago

With all the "deadly diseases" we keep digging up, we will breed faster than blackfly in t better speed up Space Exploration before we run out of room.

Think of all those new diseases we will find, it'll keep biologists going for a Millennia :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

JDavidJ · 9 hours ago


Despite this work, I'm sure I read not many weeks ago that the healthiest place to live is prevailing wind blows on to shore. This is because the air is cleaner than inland.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

dicax_maximus → JDavidJ · 9 hours ago

- JDavidJ - Maybe this explains why al those people living by the sea are dead... (the researchers) need MORE money to "further" their research...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Wanderingone56** · clean_maxima · 9 hours ago

All those people living by the sea are dead?

When did this happen? Does the Prime Minister know? Was it ISIL?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Veronica** → JDavidJ · 9 hours ago

Don't spoil it for them, they have to have something to say to scare us.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **lowtoleranceofidiots** · 9 hours ago

Same ships the Greeniots used to carry biomass from USA to UK one assumes?
NO SHIP has a catalytic convertor, the Greeniots ignore this in their religious view of ev
All Green = Bolleaux!

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Choppac** · 10 hours ago

Another cut and paste with little or no base knowledge. What is wrong have all the real j
allowed Sun juniors in or what!!!!?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Malcolm Stevas** → Choppac · 6 hours ago

They've been purged, just like all the subs were a few years ago.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **durotrige** → Choppac · 9 hours ago

She wouldn't get a job on the Sun.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **JDavidJ** → durotrige · 9 hours ago

How about on page 3?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Wanderingone56** · 10 hours ago



Whale farts. Don't forget about the whale farts.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Malcolm Stevas ➔ Wanderingone56 • 6 hours ago

Someone should warn the whales about the dangers of all that plankton, worse

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



durotrige • 11 hours ago

Ignore this rubbish.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



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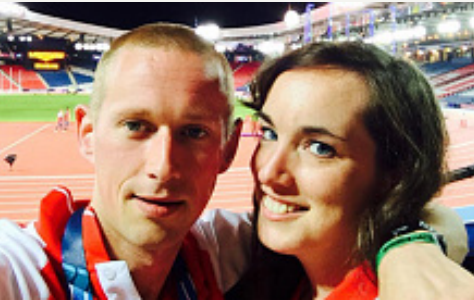
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