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Legacies of the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill: A Catalyst for Environmental Consciousness

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About

Fifty-four years ago, on January 28, 1969, a blowout at Union Oil's Platform A released over 4.5 million gallons of crude oil off the Santa Barbara coast. The spill spread across 150 to 200 miles of shoreline, washing up dead and dying seabirds, fish, and other marine life.

Purpose

My website aims to demonstrate how the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill sparked public outrage from Santa Barbara residents and others nationwide. Media and print coverage of clean-up and rescue efforts of marine life in the Santa Barbara channel led to the emergence of eco-consciousness in the 1960s and its present-day impact.



Image Credits:

Get Oil Out (GOO) Collection. SBHC Mss 10. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara. Box 74, Folder 5.

My website tracks the year following the Santa Barbara Oil spill through images, maps, timelines, videos, and documents.

Why Is This Important Fifty-Four Years later?

Fifty-four years after the Santa Barbara oil spill, there is an overwhelming scientific consensus that human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, are driving climate change. The U.S. is the most prominent historical contributor to climate change and has significantly higher emissions per capita, according to NPR.

Visit My Website to Learn More

