

Cambria Keely

Over my four-and-a-half years spent researching the proposed Kalama methanol refinery, one of the statistics I felt has been widely ignored is the deoxygenation of water by methanol. One gallon of methanol can deplete 198,000 gallons of water of oxygen, the most essential resource for marine life. This means that even the tiniest of spills--say for instance a tablespoon, which would deplete 773 gallons of water—would be devastating to the river. Take a moment to let that sink in. Spills that small are nearly impossible to avoid when filling each tanker.

Section 3.5.1.3 of the DSSEIS discusses the marine transport (MT) vessels. The low and medium emissions estimates are based upon the concept of 100,000 tankers annually, contributing to the emissions of 197,344 CO₂e per year. If 100,000 tankers spill a mere tablespoon of methanol per fill, over 77-million gallons of water would be deoxygenated. Is contributing to forty years of polluting our ecosystem really the way to respect our River, our town, and our future? I find it truly disturbing that this statistic was discussed nowhere in the DSSEIS.