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Spanish Town Facing Water Shortage Turns to Tanker for Freshwater Supply

Bloomberg

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By Clara Hernanz Lizarraga (Bloomberg) —

Shipping freshwater by sea is becoming a reality in a corner of Spain that's turned to a tanker to keep the taps running amid the lowest rainfall in 163 years.

As an exceptional measure to deal with a "historical water deficit," public utility Consorcio de Aguas Bilbao Bizkaia in the Basque region of northern Spain has ordered a ship to move 2 million liters of water a day to supply four towns, the company said in a press statement. The ship is currently in trials and is expected to start making regular trips from the city of Bilbao to Bermeo, a port that's about 30 kilometers (19 miles) away by land.

The water utility has never supplied water from a ship to a network, a spokesperson told Bloomberg.

Although it's known for milder temperatures and greener landscapes than most of central and southern Spain, the Basque country has also been hit by a severe drought this summer that's forced authorities to take unprecedented measures, such as shutting municipal fountains or banning the filling or replenishing of private pools. In the three months to July, the Basque province of Biscay recorded the lowest rainfall since 1859, according to Spain's weather agency.

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reservoirs, according to the utility.

Spanish newspaper [El Pais](#) reported the planned water shipments earlier on Wednesday.

Nearly half of the global population currently lives in a zone that's at risk of water shortages at least one month per year, according to the United Nations.

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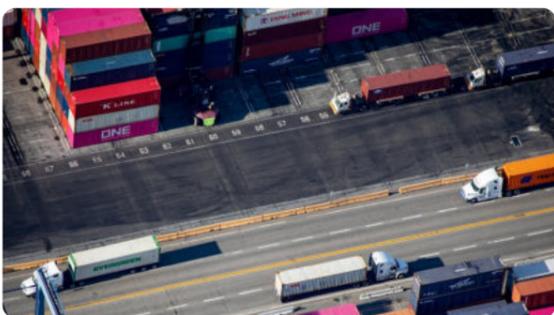


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