

Japan to release treated Fukushima water

Japan has decided to release treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean – an option fiercely opposed by local fishermen and neighbouring countries

FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Reactor buildings: Four damaged in 2011 accident caused by powerful earthquake and tsunami.

Reactors 1, 2 and 3 went into meltdown



PACIFIC OCEAN

Reactors 5 and 6
being decommissioned

6 5

1 2 3 4

Site boundary

500m

550 yards

● **Storage tanks:** Contain more than 1.25 million tonnes* of treated water, including water used to cool melted reactor fuel, plus rain and groundwater. Storage capacity expected to run out in Autumn 2022

TREATED RADIOACTIVE WATER

■ **ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System):** Treatment process reduces concentration of strontium and caesium in contaminated water and removes most radioactive materials

■ **Water to be released**
Still contains tritium – weakly radioactive form of hydrogen – said to pose little health risk in low amounts. Some scientists say long-term impact on marine life is unknown

■ **Schedule:** Release due to begin in two years and take nearly 40 years to complete. Water will be re-purified and diluted to meet international standards before any release into ocean

*Equivalent to about 500 Olympic-sized swimming pools