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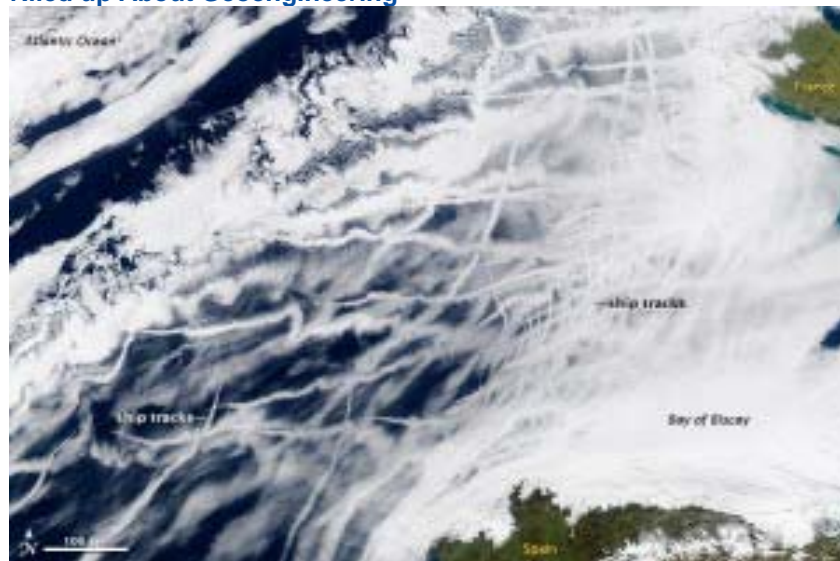
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# SURPRISING SCIENCE

Ideas, innovations and discoveries from the world of science

February 23, 2010

## Riled up About Geoengineering



Clouds form in shipping lanes because of emissions from ships' smokestacks. Image courtesy of NASA

One of the most contentious sessions at the [American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting](#) this past weekend in San Diego was on geoengineering, the study of ways to engineer the planet to manipulate climate. Intentional ways to do so, I should say—as many of the speakers pointed out, we've already pumped so much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that the planet is warming and will continue to warm throughout this century, even if we started reducing emissions today. This isn't a political opinion, it's a fundamental property of the chemistry and longevity of carbon dioxide.

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