Black gold in Sicily

The most important oil fields in Italy, are located in Sicily, in particular in the South-west: Ragusa, Gela and offshore in the Sicily Channel.
Map of the drillings

- The pink symbols indicate the areas where wells are currently in operation.
- The black symbols indicate the areas where it was required to do new drilling.
Petroleum in Ragusa

The presence of oil in Ragusa goes back to very ancient times, as early as the Hellenistic period they used the stone pitch: a limestone impregnated with oil and In Roman times, there are testimonies of natural outcrops of Petra oleum, while between 1800 and 1900 it was processed and exported the “Pietra asfaltica- bitumen” that was used to pave roads or to extract lubricating oils and fuels, and nel 1953 it was discovered the first oil field.
Ragusa’s wells are the oldests in Sicily, they are active since 1953. Today in the province 28 wells are operative even if the production seems reduced in the last years.
In 1956 drilling started first in the Gela plain and then on the coast where in 1959, the first offshore platform in Europe was made: Gela at sea.
In 1960 was born the Petrochemical Gela and it had the Purpose of Working crude oil that was extracted in Gela and Ragusa.
The Nilde fields were discovered in 1980 at about 60 km from the coast of Marsala. (West Sicily)
Between the 70s and the 80s the sea oil platforms Prezioso and Perla were made offshore the west coast of Sicily.
Vega oil field

The offshore oil platform Vega is the biggest in the Mediterranean sea, 12 miles far from the coast of Sicily, in operation since February 1987 it produces 60,000 barrels of oil per day. The oil field is very deep: 2,400-2,800 meters, There are 17 wells in operation
The offshore platform Vega A (Pozzallo)
Impact on the environment

The extraction of petroleum has a very high impact on the environment
Exploration technics on land and in the sea (airgun)
Drilling
Waste
Spills
And when petroleum goes into the sea....
......it’s the end for the sea life