

Tierra del Fuego island and the mainland. By the mid-seventies works were started offshore in the Straits of Magellan, between its first narrow inlet and its eastern inlet. In 1988, ENAP operated in this area with nearly 2,100 workers.

Several oil exploration operations have begun in northern Chile through risk-contracts made by ENAP with several foreign firms (HUNT-USA, HAMILTON-NORCEN-USA, MAXUS-USA, EUROCAN-CANADA). To-date, results have been negative.

1.2 Crude Oil Refining

There are two oil refineries and a topping plant in the country, all of them subsidiaries of ENAP. One refinery, (commissioned late 1954), is situated in Concón, near the Valparaíso and Quintero harbors in Chile's Fifth Region. The other, is located 10 km (6 mi) from Concepción in the Eighth Region and was commissioned in 1966.

The Gregorio topping plant (commissioned in 1980), 100 km (62 mi) from Punta Arenas in the Twelfth Region with a 1,600 cu.m/day (56,500 cu.ft/day) distilling capacity. It produces kerosene, diesel, petroleum, gasoline and reduced crude for regional consumption. The latter is added to the native crude sent to refineries in central Chile. Formerly, there was another topping plant near Manantiales, in southern Chile, but it closed operations in 1978.

The present capacity of these refineries is shown in the following table:

the system distributes refined products to an area of clean oil products is concentrated in Magallanes, an area which is self-sufficient, the rest of the country is supplied by ship and truck. Nearly 60 % of the oil pipelines are owned by ENAP. The remainder belong to the National Oil Pipeline Company (SINACOL).

ENAP, through its subsidiary Fuels Storage Company (ENALCO), controls four storage centers used as a safety reserve stock for primary distribution. The refineries rent storage facilities from these centers and supply local distributors.

Up to 1980, distribution of liquid fuels obtained from oil was traditionally handled by only three distribution companies.