



Emission Control Areas (MEPC 82)

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Air pollution: Health effects and costs

- Air pollution from ships - both in ports and at sea - contributes significantly to air pollution leading to nature destruction and health damages on land.
- Air pollution is the number one global risk factor in relation to mortality. Even in the EU, it causes around 8% of all deaths according to the EEA, and health costs being same magnitude as 5% of GNP according to the World Bank.
- Emission Control Areas (ECAs) limiting the emission of Sulphur Oxides (SO_x), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and black carbon (BC) have been the main IMO-tool to reduce air pollution in sensitive regions.

MEPC 82: Emission Control Areas

- Adoption concerning designation of the Canadian Arctic and the Norwegian Sea as Emission Control Areas as approved by MEPC 81 to enter into force on 1st March 2026.
- First official IMO lunch presentation (Monday) concerning the designation of a North Atlantic Emission Control Area, which could potentially be first proposed/approved at MEPC 83 in the spring 2025.
- If approved, the North Atlantic Emission Control Area will be the largest geographically, closing the gap between Canadian, Norwegian, Northern European and Mediterranean Emission Control Areas.

MEPC 82: The expected outcome

- Adopting the designation of the Canadian Arctic and the Norwegian Sea as Emission Control Areas to enter into force on 1st March 2026 to protect human health and biodiversity.
- A clear commitment from Atlantic coastal states concerning the designation of a North Atlantic Emission Control Area, possibly to be proposed and approved first time at MEPC 83 in the spring 2025.

Note on ECAs

Emission Control Areas (ECAs) reduce Sulphur Oxides (SO_x) by 80 % and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) by 75 % compared to traditional shipping. Furthermore, the co-emission of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and black carbon (BC) is reduced significantly. Thereby nature destruction as well as health damages and costs are reduced significantly. ECAs have been successes everywhere they have been established.