The Arctic, Black Carbon and Shipping

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GHG emissions and black carbon from shipping impacting the Arctic



Thanks to the Clean Arctic Alliance for use of their infographic

Black Carbon is a very shortlived forcer, so its effects are place based.

- CO₂ is a very long-lived (hundreds of years) and evenly distributed gas (molecules) that operates on a global level, compared to BC (particles) that remain in the air for a just a few days or weeks before depositing.
- So, very relevant to the Arctic, the AR6 report actually doubled estimates of the warming potential of BC on snow and ice. This is due to better understanding of BC's warming on snow forcing, estimated by AR6 as 2 to 4 times that of equivalent CO_2 forcing.

Reducing BC emissions can significantly slow warming in the Arctic. Focus on sources in or close to the Arctic (or other seasonal/permanent ice and snow, or cryosphere).

• Focus on sources with a higher ratio of black carbon, such as flaring and marine shipping.

• Of all the sources of black carbon in the Arctic, shipping is the only one that is increasing.

How to reduce black carbon emissions from shipping?

Agree to

immediate action to regulate emissions of black carbon from ships which impact the Arctic.

Develop compulsory measures to reduce black carbon emissions from ships, including:

- a new black carbon (switch to distillate) regulation in MARPOL Annex VI
- designation of new Arctic BC emission control areas
- an aromatic fuel standard
- use of technology to reduce black carbon emissions

Next steps - IMO Member States must...



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Questions?

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