

THE ARCTIC COMMITMENT



As of April 2018,
signatories to the Arctic Commitment include:

- [Eyak Preservation Council](#)
- [Defenders of Wildlife](#)
- [Oceana](#)
- [Audubon Alaska](#)
- [International Cryosphere Climate Initiative](#)
- [Native Land Conservancy](#)
- [Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators](#)
- [Lewis Pugh](#) UNEP Patron of the Oceans and Polar Swimmer
- [Bernice Notenboom](#) Explorer, Filmmaker and Journalist
- [Svein Tveitdal](#) UNEP Director and CEO of Klima2020
- [Adventure Canada](#)
- [International Windship Association](#)
- [Bas Eickhout](#) MEP
- [Global Ocean Trust](#)
- [Hafnasambandid](#) Associated Icelandic Ports
- [Faxaports](#)
- [Visit Svalbard](#)
- [Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft](#) Bancroft Arnesen Explore
- [GoodFuels Marine](#)
- [BICEPS Network](#)
- [Linking Tourism & Conservation](#)
- [The Urgenda Foundation](#)
- [Arctic Basecamp Davos](#)
- [Sir Ranulph Fiennes](#) Polar Explorer
- [Jonathan Bradshaw](#) Polar Advocate and Author
- [Graeme G Kelleher](#) Ocean Elder
- [Eric Philips](#) Director of Icetrek Expeditions and President of the International Polar Guides Association
- [Alain Hubert](#) Explorer and President of the International Polar Foundation
- [Sirpa Pietikäinen](#) MEP
- [Ocean Expeditions](#)
- [Maritime LNG Platform](#)
- [Kawerak, Inc.](#)
- [Dutch Association of Captains for Merchant Shipping](#)
- [Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland](#)
- [Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition](#)
- [Swedish Society for Nature Conservation](#)
- [Merja Kyllönen](#) MEP
- [IKEA Supply AG](#)
- [Arctic Security Consultants](#)
- [Claudio Boezio](#) Utopia Navalis
- [Magnus Johannesson](#) Former Director, Arctic Council Secretariat

- [Oceano Azul Foundation](#)
- [Callum Roberts](#) Professor of Marine Conservation
- [Polar Research and Policy Initiative](#)
- [Kristina Gjerde](#) High Seas Advocate
- [Davor Škrlec](#) MEP
- [Enkhuizen Nautical College](#)
- [Ruud Koornstra](#) Energy Commissioner of the Netherlands
- [Professor Dan Laffoley](#) Ocean Conservationist
- [Xabier Benito Ziluaga](#) MEP
- [Women4Oceans](#)
- [Blue Climate Solutions](#)
- [Oceanwide Expeditions](#)
- [eXXpedition CIC](#)
- [Emily Penn](#) Ocean Advocate & Skipper
- [Aurora Expeditions](#)
- [Lindblad Expeditions](#)
- [Bremenports GmbH & Co. KG](#)
- [Tiemo Wölken](#) MEP
- [Eco-union](#) Mediterranean Association for Green Economy Transition
- [Ecologistas en Acción](#)
- [Javier Benayas](#) Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Antarctic Researcher
- [Carol Devine](#) Explorer, Writer, Speaker, Humanitarian
- [Joaquín Araujo](#) Naturalist and Writer
- [Rosa Martínez](#) Member of Parliament for Bizkaia Region
- [Fernando Moleres](#) Current Affairs and Human Rights Photographer
- [Paco Gómez](#) Photographer and Writer
- [Alianza por el Clima](#)
- [Jorge Riechmann](#) Associate Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- [Carolina Punset](#) MEP
- [Heinz Otto](#) German Wind Energy Association
- [Avataq](#) Greenland's Association for Nature and Environment
- [Zaria Forman](#) Artist
- [Xavier Pastor](#) Oceanographer and Former Director of Greenpeace Spain
- [Valentín Carrera](#) Journalist and Writer
- [George Monbiot](#) Journalist, Environmentalist, and Writer
- [Rosa M. Tristán](#) Environmental Journalist
- [Pen Hadow](#) Director, Arctic Mission/ 90° North Unit Ltd
- [Derrick Armstrong](#) Professor, The University of the South Pacific
- [Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport](#)

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The Arctic is one of the few regions of the world that has remained largely untouched by large-scale industrial development. This largely pristine environment is nonetheless host to millions of people with rich, often ancient cultures as well as a great diversity of ecosystems and marine life. The Arctic is also of major global importance due to its crucial role in regulating world weather patterns and ocean currents.

However, climate change poses significant challenges to this vulnerable environment due to the rapid melting of Arctic sea ice. These changes lead to the prospect of considerable growth in Arctic marine traffic as new sea routes become gradually accessible.

Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) is, by volume, the most commonly used shipping fuel in the Arctic and the Arctic Council has categorised its use as one of the most significant

threats to the Arctic environment. HFO is an extremely viscous and toxic fuel and the potential for an HFO spillage poses a major risk to Arctic marine ecosystems and to the communities that depend upon these. The combustion of HFO produces high levels of air pollutants, including black carbon, that are harmful to human health and act as powerful regional climate change accelerators.

In recognition of the serious impacts and associated risks of HFO use in polar regions, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has already amended the MARPOL Convention to ban the use and carriage of heavy grade oils by ships in the Antarctic.

It is imperative that we acknowledge the grave risks to the Arctic environment and beyond and call for mitigation measures, including a phase-out of HFO use for Arctic shipping.

We, the undersigned

CALL UPON the international community to acknowledge the importance and vulnerability of the Arctic region and to pledge to protect this unique environment;

ACKNOWLEDGING the uniqueness of the Arctic region; the diversity of its ecosystems and the richness of its peoples' cultures;

RECOGNISING that development needs to take place at a pace and on a scale that is supportable by the fragile and changing Arctic ecosystems;

UNDERSTANDING the Arctic's important role in the regulation of the global climate, notably its role in helping to maintain stable global temperatures;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the rapid melting of the Arctic sea ice and the alarming projected rise in global sea levels;

AWARE OF the particular vulnerability of the Arctic environment; its peoples, wildlife and ecosystems, to the effects of climate change, particularly the melting of polar ice;

NOTING the rapid expected growth of ship traffic in the Arctic region and that most of the fuel carried by vessels in the Arctic is heavy fuel oil;

RECOGNISING the harmful impact of heavy fuel oil combustion on the Arctic environment, resulting in particularly high

emissions of particulate matter, including black carbon, which accelerates the warming of the Arctic and the melting of ice;

ALSO RECOGNISING the harmful impact of heavy fuel oil combustion upon human, animal and plant life in the Arctic regions due to the high emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxide, sulphates and other harmful forms of pollution;

UNDERLINING the considerable operational risks inherent in Arctic maritime navigation and, with these, a heightened risk of environmentally disastrous HFO spills;

ACKNOWLEDGING the potentially grave consequences for Arctic marine ecosystems in the event of a heavy fuel oil spill due to its high viscosity making it virtually impossible to clean up in the cold, ice infested and often inaccessible waters of the Arctic, with potentially disastrous consequences for Arctic marine wildlife, ecosystems and communities;

RECALLING that the Polar Code encourages ships not to use or carry heavy fuel oil in the Arctic;

AGREEING that a switch from the use of heavy fuel oil to cleaner fuel types by ships and the application of adequate emission reduction technology would significantly advance the objective of protecting the Arctic marine environment;

Call for a phase-out of the use of heavy fuel oil by ships in a timely manner and urge International Maritime Organization Member States and stakeholders to advance this goal.

We invite you to join the movement.

If you would like to sign the Arctic Commitment,
please contact us at:

Arctic.Commitment@HFOFreeArctic.org



The Arctic Commitment is an initiative launched in January 2017
by [the Clean Arctic Alliance](#)* and [Hurtigruten](#)

*The Clean Arctic Alliance is made up of
18 not-for-profit organisations committed to phasing out
the use of HFO as marine fuel in the Arctic:

[Alaska Wilderness League](#) | [Bellona](#) | [Clean Air Task Force](#) |
[Danish Ecological Council](#) | [ECODES](#) | [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) | [European Climate Foundation](#) | [Friends of the Earth US](#)
| [Greenpeace](#) | [Iceland Nature Conservation Association](#) | [Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union](#) | [Ocean Conservancy](#) | [Pacific Environment](#) | [Seas At Risk](#) | [Stand.earth](#) | [Surfrider Foundation Europe](#) | [Transport & Environment](#) | [WWF](#)

For more information please visit:
<http://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/arctic-commitment>