Ships' black carbon emissions are an increasing threat



Global black carbon (BC) emissions from ships have grown approximately 12% between 2012 - 2018. In the Arctic, the rate of growth is dramatically faster.

Reductions of black carbon lead to quick reductions in global warming potential

The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) found that BC emissions from Arctic shipping increased 85% between 2015 - 2019. The ICCT concluded that IMO's Arctic HFO ban regulation will only reduce BC emissions by 5% in July 2024.

Further reductions are not likely until exemptions and waivers to the Arctic HFO ban expire in July 2029. BC remains in the atmosphere for a short period of time, so reducing emissions leads to quick reductions in warming potential.

In 2017, the Arctic Council set a target to reduce BC emissions by 25 - 33% below 2013 levels by 2025, and in 2019 called for reductions in particulate matter and BC emissions from shipping.

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3