Reducing black carbon emissions is effective and achievable



Black carbon (BC) emission reductions could be achieved rapidly if ships using heavy fuel oil (HFO) switched to distillate fuel.

Reducing BC emissions in the Arctic will reduce climate warming and the risks to human health

IMO's 4th GHG Study showed that switching to distillate reduces BC emissions by up to 79% in 2-stroke engines and 48% in 4-stroke engines. ICCT's analysis found that switching to distillate could reduce BC emissions from the Arctic HFO-fuelled fleet by 44%.

Switching to distillate means particulate filters could be installed, which would further reduce BC emissions by over 90%.

The Arctic HFO ban will only reduce BC emissions by 5% in 2024.

For rapid reductions in BC emissions, Arctic shipping should switch to distillate fuel and install a particulate filter or choose a cleaner form of propulsion.

