Expected black carbon emissions reductions from fuel switching

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What to expect

Today, I'll do the following:

- Explain trends in BC emissions from ships
- Describe the BC emissions reduction potential of switching from HFO to distillates
- Explain why a switch from HFO to distillates, and not VLSFO, is needed for an effective BC control policy
- Explain the additional benefits of switching to distillates compared to HFO and VLSFO
- End with some conclusions







Black carbon emissions from ships in the Arctic and globally relative to 2015



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Sources: [left two panels] Comer et al. (2020). *The International Maritime Organization's proposed Arctic heavy fuel oil ban: Likely implications and opportunities for improvement*, https://theicct.org/publications/analysis-HFO-ban-IMO-2020. [right panel 2015 & 2017] Faber et al. (2020). *Fourth IMO Greenhouse Gas Study*. [right panel 2019] ICCT estimate based on Faber et al (2020) trends.

Switching from HFO (residual) to distillates reduces BC about 80% for 2-stroke engines and 40%-50% for 4-stroke engines, depending on load



icct THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON Clean Transportation Sources: Images from Comer et al. (2017). *Black carbon emissions and fuel use in global shipping, 2015, a*vailable at <u>https://www.theicct.org/publications/black-carbon-emissions-global-shipping-2015</u>, which are the same as the black carbon emission factors used by Faber et al. (2020) in the *Fourth IMO Greenhouse Gas Study*.

Arctic HFO use by engine type, 2019



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Source: ICCT calculations based on data underlying Comer et al. (2020). *The International Maritime Organization's proposed Arctic heavy fuel oil ban: Likely implications and opportunities for improvement,* <u>https://theicct.org/publications/analysis-HFO-ban-IMO-2020</u>.

Arctic black carbon emissions if HFO-fueled ships switch to distillates, shown in blue (2019 example)





Source: Comer et al. (2020). *The International Maritime Organization's proposed Arctic heavy fuel oil ban: Likely implications and opportunities for improvement*, <u>https://theicct.org/publications/analysis-HFO-ban-IMO-2020</u>.

Switching to distillate is an "appropriate" Black Carbon control policy

- Participants identified six appropriate BC control policies (in no particular order):
 - o BC emissions limit for new ships, globally
 - BC emissions limit for new ships, regionally (e.g., in the Arctic)
 - BC emissions limit for all ships, regionally (e.g., in the Arctic)
 - Modern ship requirement (e.g., prohibit access to the Arctic to higher emitting ships built before a certain date)
 - Shore power mandate (e.g., if shore power is available at port, ships must use it)
 - HFO ban, with a switch to distillates or other cleaner fuels



What about VLSFO?

Workshop participants agreed that an HFO ban with a switch to distillates or other cleaner fuels must prohibit VLSFO to be effective as a BC control policy

Potential BC control policies Measurement Enforceability¹ Other Decision Target Policy Description required 1. Bunker delivery note and fuel log inspection would be easier HFO ban with a Use distillates instead of HFO. Do not No BC than having to measure a fuel switch to use very low sulfur fuel oil (VLSFO). measurement. sample as for SECA. Do not use desulfurized residual fuels. distillates or but fuel High 2. Must prohibit fuels with high Appropriate other cleaner Non-residual fuels that emit less BC samples could aromatic / low hydrogen content, fuels or no BC would be allowed. be required. prohibit VLSFO, and prohibit Fuels desulfurized residual fuels to be effective as a BC control policy. No BC Potential areas of investigation: Promotion of cleaner fuels. Could be measurement, **Fuel Quality** Needs more aromatic/hydrogen content linked an aromatic content limit or a but fuel Unclear Standard work minimum hydrogen content. samples could to BC; ISO 8217 revision. be required.

¹Qualitative scale where High means a policy can be enforced by using or modifying existing verification methods; Medium means that it could be enforced but new verification methods would be needed; Low means that it is difficult to ensure compliance.

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9

Additional benefits of switching to distillates

- Lowers air pollution. Using distillates reduces SO_x, PM, and BC relative to VLSFO and HFO.
- Enables exhaust aftertreatment: Using distillates allows for the possibility of using BC after-treatment technologies like diesel particulate filters and electrostatic precipitators. Both reduce BC emissions by >90%.
- Lowers potential spill costs. Distillate spills are expect to be 30% less costly than VLSFO and 70% less than HFO.



Conclusions

- BC emissions from ships are growing globally and even more rapidly (>10x faster) in the Arctic.
- ICCT workshop participants identified six appropriate BC control policies, including switching from HFO to distillates or other cleaner fuels, which <u>does not</u> include VLSFOs.
- Switching from HFO to distillates would immediately reduce BC emissions from ships. BC emissions from HFO-fueled Arctic ships would fall 44%, reducing Arctic-wide ship emissions 30%.
- Switching to distillates has the added benefits of lowering air pollution, enabling the use of exhaust after-treatment, and lowering potential spill costs compared to VLSFO and HFO.

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Thank you for your attention! Questions or comments? Email: bryan.comer@theicct.org

