

A challenge to the IMO Member States

The undersigned companies, municipalities and NGOs urge the Heads of Delegation of Member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) implement actions to reduce emissions from shipping, especially in the Arctic.

The acidity of the ocean, research shows, is increasing due to ever increasing emissions of CO₂ into the atmosphere, most notably so in the North Atlantic. This development already threatens the ocean ecosystem. Hence, it is incumbent upon all to contribute to remedy this situation.

In order to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions, set by States under the Paris Agreement, we urge the IMO Member States to set sensible (i.e., responsible) rules and regulations on shipping in the Arctic for the benefit of the marine environment. Such rules and regulations will, inter alia, include:

- a) A ban on the use of Heavy Fuel Oil on ships north of the 60th degree of latitude
- b) To define the area north of 60° of latitude as an ECA (Emission Control Area).

Increased shipping in the high north will increase the risk of pollution as well as accidents. The ocean area north of the 60° latitude is fragile. Fish stocks form the basis for the coastal economy of littoral states. It is the duty of states to undertake all responsible measures in order to reduce the risk of pollution as well as the threat of climate change and ocean acidification.

Apart from being highly toxic and viscous, HFO is a very potential climate forcer that impacts the global climate in a most harmful way.