

NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 7 – 2024

USE OF EXHAUST GAS SCRUBBERS WITHIN CROMARTY FIRTH PORT LIMITS

Whilst exhaust gas scrubbers are a recognised solution to dealing with air pollution under MARPOL Annex V1, open loop scrubbers which permit the discharge of wash water into the sea are an area of concern.

Under the OSPAR Convention there are strict restrictions in place relating to limits for a range of contaminants that are permitted to be in any dredged material that can be disposed in designated spoil grounds. Whilst there are IMO Guidelines in place for exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS), including monitoring of wash water discharge, there has been no confirmation at a national level in Scotland that the constituent parts of the wash water discharge has no impact on the marine environment and in particular the effect on the local ecosystems in the Cromarty Firth.

In order to ensure best practice in meeting the Habitats (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Water Framework Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC) Vessels entering port limits should:

- (a) Switch EGCS's off or to a closed loop mode, thus stopping any discharge of wash waters to the marine environment.
- (b) Where a closed loop system is not technically possible, the vessel should run solely on compliant fuels

For further information please contact the Port Manager.

Calum Slater
General Manager

1st January 2024