

ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL

MARINE SERVICES

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 04/2024

10 June 2024

BANNING OPEN LOOP SCRUBBERS

Use of Open Loop Scrubbers in Orkney Harbour Areas

Whilst Exhaust Gas Scrubbers (open and closed loop) are a recognized solution to dealing with air pollution under MARPOL Annex VI, "Open Loop" scrubbers, which permit the discharge of wash water into the sea - there remains areas of concern with this practice in Harbour Areas.

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 dredge material that can be disposed in the designated spoil grounds. Whilst there are IMO guidelines in place for exhaust gas cleaning systems, including monitoring of wash water discharge from open loop exhaust gas scrubbers, there remains serious concerns with regard to the constituent parts / particles contained within the wash water and the medium long term effect on the marine environment / local marine ecosystems when discharged at berths / anchorages etc. in ports and harbours

The Orkney County Council Act 1974 specifically states that the Harbour Authority must take all action as they consider necessary or desirable ... in the promotion of maintenance of the port. (section 5 (1a)).

Therefore, as a precaution the use of "Open Loop" scrubbers in all Orkney Harbour Areas is prohibited until further notice and with immediate effect.

Jim Buck FRIN
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