

# NOTICE TO MARINERS

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## **Peel Ports Group – Open Loop Scrubbers Questionnaire**

**Notice is hereby given that:** Mariners are advised that Peel Ports are gathering information from vessels using their ports regarding the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems. From 1 January 2020, the limit for sulphur in fuel oil used on board ships operating outside designated emission control areas reduced to 0.50% m/m (mass by mass). All ships must meet this requirement of MARPOL Annex VI, regulation 14, regardless of their size, or whether they are on an international or domestic voyage. Some vessels limit their air pollution by installing exhaust gas cleaning systems, also known as “scrubbers”.

The use of such systems is allowed under Regulation 4 of MARPOL Annex VI as long as they do not impair or damage the environment, human health, property, or resources. Research into the environmental effects of scrubber “wash water” is ongoing. However, ports are concerned of the potential for these systems to contaminate sediment.

In order to contribute to the evidence base and allow Peel Ports to make an informed decision on the use of such systems in port areas, the port is collecting information on vessels using their ports.

All vessels navigating within the Statutory Harbour Authority of Peel Ports London Medway are therefore asked to complete a [short survey](#).

Once a vessel has completed the survey, they will not need to repeat their submission.

**Marine Operations Department  
Peel Ports London Medway**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**