

Decarbonizing International Shipping: *applying the 5-lever framework*

Professor Alan McKinnon

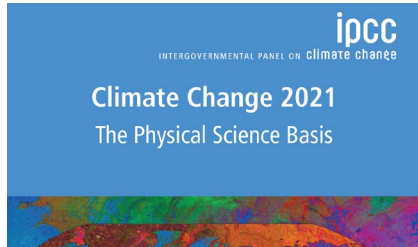
*Kühne Logistics University
Hamburg*

Navigate 2022

Turku

1 June 2022

Meeting the Decarbonisation Challenge in the Maritime Sector



'Emission reduction aspirations' in international shipping are 'lower than in many other sectors'

2.9% of global CO₂ 2018)

shipping = *'hard-to-abate sector'*

business-as-usual trend: 90-130% higher than 2008 by 2050



50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2008 to 2050

5-lever Framework for Decarbonising Freight Transport

1. Constrain the future demand for shipping

2. Shift freight to lower carbon transport modes

for most routes and cargos shipping has lowest carbon intensity

3. Maximise vessel loading

4. Improve energy efficiency of shipping operations

5. Switch shipping to low carbon energy



container ship 16gCO₂ / tonne-km



bulk carrier 4gCO₂ / tonne-km

1. Constrain future demand for international shipping

Phasing out fossil fuels reduces amount of coal, oil and gas to be shipped

Fossil fuels = 41% of maritime trade
(UNCTAD, 2017)



Substitution of maritime flows of materials for renewable energy infrastructure, biomass etc



Post-pandemic priority for supply chain resilience promoting localisation / reshoring ?

Curbing international trade would inhibit economic development of lower income countries

Much international trade yields a net reduction in carbon emissions because production-related emissions in the exporting country are lower than those in the importing country

Low sensitivity of international trade volumes to maritime decarbonisation measures
(increasing freight rates and transit times):

IMO high GHG reduction scenario: international trade contracts by only 0.49%

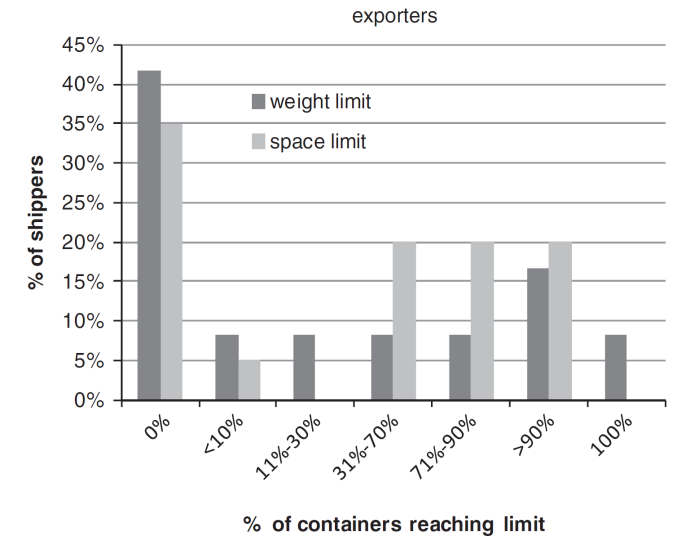
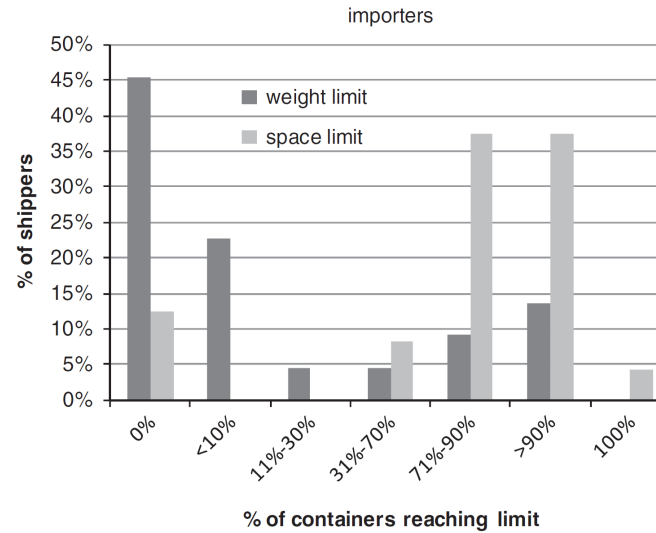
(UNCTAD, 2021)

3. Maximise vessel loading

Relatively little research on capacity utilisation of ships by comparison with trucking.

<https://bit.ly/3NDjbfd>

utilisation at vessel and container levels



Difficult to determine the potential for cutting GHG emissions by raising vessel load factors

- traffic imbalances on many trade lanes: *repositioning of empty containers / vessels*
- need for ballast water – *adding weight to optimise stability / trim*
- current capacity shortages likely to be temporary – *longer term capacity utilisation trend?*

4. Improve the energy efficiency of shipping operations

technical innovation

new generation of energy efficient vessels



operational improvements

- vessel management
- weather routing
- hull and propeller cleaning
- improved draught and trim
- upgraded maintenance
- speed optimisation

EEDI: tightening fuel economy standards for new vessels

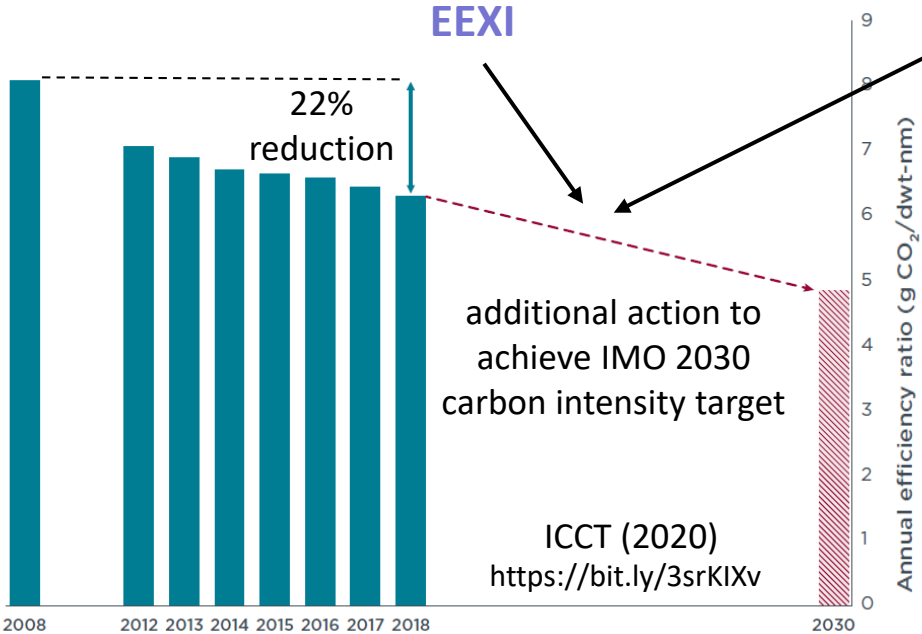
long life assets: *average ship 21 years old (2020)*

opportunities for retrofitting existing vessels

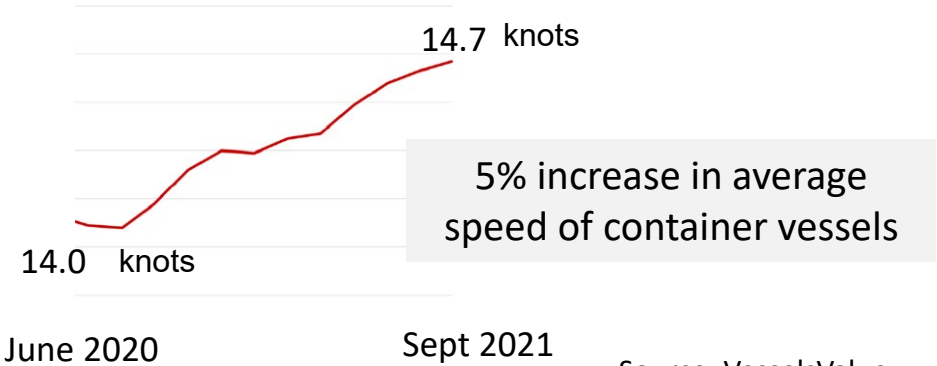
from 2023 fuel economy standard for existing vessels

Enhanced SEEMP / CII

voluntary → mandatory



10% reduction in vessel speed reduces fuel consumption by 23% (IMO)



Source: VesselsValue

5. Switch shipping to low carbon energy

By 2050 64% of reduction in CO₂ emissions predicted to come from alternative fuels

IMO 4th GHG study (2020)
<https://bit.ly/3GsW0Sr>

Unlike road and rail freight, shipping has limited direct access to **low carbon electricity**

Ships account for around 58% of CO₂ emissions in European and Asian ports (Merk, 2014)

'cold ironing' –in port access to low-carbon shore-side electricity



biofuels: bio-LNG, bio-methanol, biodiesel

extensive land requirements

high life-cycle GHG emissions of biofuels produced at scale from crop cultivation

wind-assisted ship propulsion (WASP) <https://bit.ly/3y2bQxq>

Sails could be retrofitted to 40,000 existing ships contributing 20% of energy
<https://bit.ly/3aqUOTP>

e-methanol

<https://bit.ly/3PoChYg>

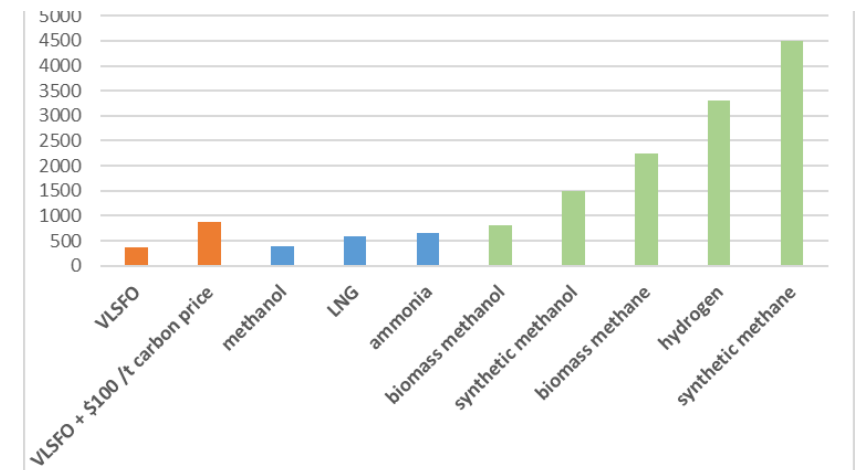
differing strengths and weaknesses

green ammonia

vast demand for green hydrogen

transformation of global marine energy supply system

Estimated 2050 fuel prices for marine fuels (IMO 4th GHG study)



Professor Alan McKinnon

Center for Sustainable Logistics and Supply Chains
Kühne Logistics University – the KLU
Wissenschaftliche Hochschule für Logistik und Unternehmensführung
Grosser Grasbrook 17
20457 Hamburg

tel.: +49 40 328707-271
fax: +49 40 328707-109

e-mail: Alan.McKinnon@the-klu.org
website: www.the-klu.org
www.alanmckinnon.co.uk



@alanmckinnon

www.linkedin.com/in/alan-mckinnon-a3a79722



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