

Shipping: Exhaust Emissions

Written Answers

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the use of scrubber technology and marine sulphur dumping on UK coastlines.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made on the potential effects of the use of scrubber technology and marine sulphur dumping on the English channel.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the use of scrubber technology and marine sulphur dumping on marine life and biodiversity in UK waters.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the use of scrubber technology and marine nitrate dumping on algae build up on UK coastlines.

Nusrat Ghani Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Transport), Assistant Whip (HM Treasury)

The Government has not seen any evidence that the use of scrubbing technology would have any significant effect on marine environment.

All scrubbers must comply with mandatory Guidelines, which were developed by the International Maritime Organization, before they are allowed to become operational. The potential effects of the use of scrubber technologies on the marine environment was taken into consideration when developing the Guidelines. To be compliant, the systems collect and store any sulphur residue and solid particulate matter on-board the vessel, to be deposited at a port waste reception facility.

Some scrubbers discharge treated wash water back into the sea “ which is also controlled under the IMO Guidelines. There are ongoing studies which are looking at the impact of wash water discharges within European waters, which we are monitoring. At this stage, we are not aware of any significant issues which have been found. However, we will respond appropriately at international level, if these or any other studies, conclude that further controls are needed.

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