

# Soundings



## MEPC 74 – welcome guidance on IMO 2020

**Last week at the 74th MEPC Summit, the IMO considered a number of matters relating to the 0.5% sulphur limit taking effect on 1st January, 2020 and provided welcome guidance and clarity on various key issues. We summarise some of the key takeaways below.**

### **Guidelines for consistent implementation**

A comprehensive set of non-mandatory guidelines for the consistent implementation of the sulphur cap was approved. These provide further clarity in relation to matters such as sampling and verification of fuel sulphur content, port State control measures, fuel non-availability and technical guidance to minimise fuel quality problems. The Guidelines can be read in more detail here: <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/Documents/Resolution%20MEPC.320%2874%29.pdf>.

### **Draft amendments to MARPOL**

A number of draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI were also approved. Subject to adoption at MEPC 75, they will enter into force in autumn 2021, though parties are encouraged to apply them where possible in advance and the MEPC has issued a Circular to this effect.

### **Scrubbers**

The MEPC gave further consideration to matters relating to the use of scrubbers and is continuing to review the current guidelines, which were issued in 2015. A Circular has been issued which provides guidance on handling unexpected issues during the operation of a scrubber, such as accidental breakdown.

### **Best practice**

Various other MEPC Circulars have been issued, covering matters such as best practice for oil purchasers and users. Members are advised to take note of all applicable guidance.

### **More information**

The following links provide access to IMO and Intertanko reports on MEPC 74 and include copies of the relevant Circulars and amendments to MARPOL referred to above:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/10-MEPC-74-sulphur-2020.aspx>

[https://www.intertanko.com/images/topics-issues/bunkers/2019/Special-Report-on-MEPC-74\\_20-May-2019.pdf](https://www.intertanko.com/images/topics-issues/bunkers/2019/Special-Report-on-MEPC-74_20-May-2019.pdf)

### **Next steps**

The IMO Secretariat plans to hold a further roundtable meeting with representatives from across stakeholders in June 2019 to review progress and share information. The next MEPC meeting will be held after the new MARPOL Regulations have entered into force, in March/April 2020.

**We will continue to keep Members informed.**