

FORTH PORTS LIMITED

No 45 of 2019

2nd December 2019

NOTICE TO MARINERS FIRTH OF FORTH & TAY

Use of Open Loop Scrubbers on the Forth and Tay

Whilst Scrubbers are a recognised solution to dealing with air pollution under MARPOL Annex VI, “Open Loop” scrubbers, which permit the discharge of wash water into the sea are an area of concern.

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, there has been no confirmation at a National level in Scotland that the constituent parts of the wash water discharge has no impact on the Marine environment and in particular the effect on the local ecosystems within the Forth and Tay.

Forth Ports and Port of Dundee Byelaw 59 specifically prohibits the discharge of materials into the Forth and Tay. This applies to discharge water from an “Open Loop” scrubber.

Therefore, as a precaution the use of “Open Loop” scrubbers on the Forth and Tay is prohibited until further notice.

Status of previously published notices:

No 41 and 45 of 2018

No 10, 24, 40 and 42 of 2019 remain in force

**Alan McPherson
Chief Harbour Master**