

International maritime organization move to reduce pollution of the air by ships, ironically drives up water sea water pollution. Explain

Air pollution is one of burning environmental issue of 21st century. No. of organizations, International convention addressing this issue

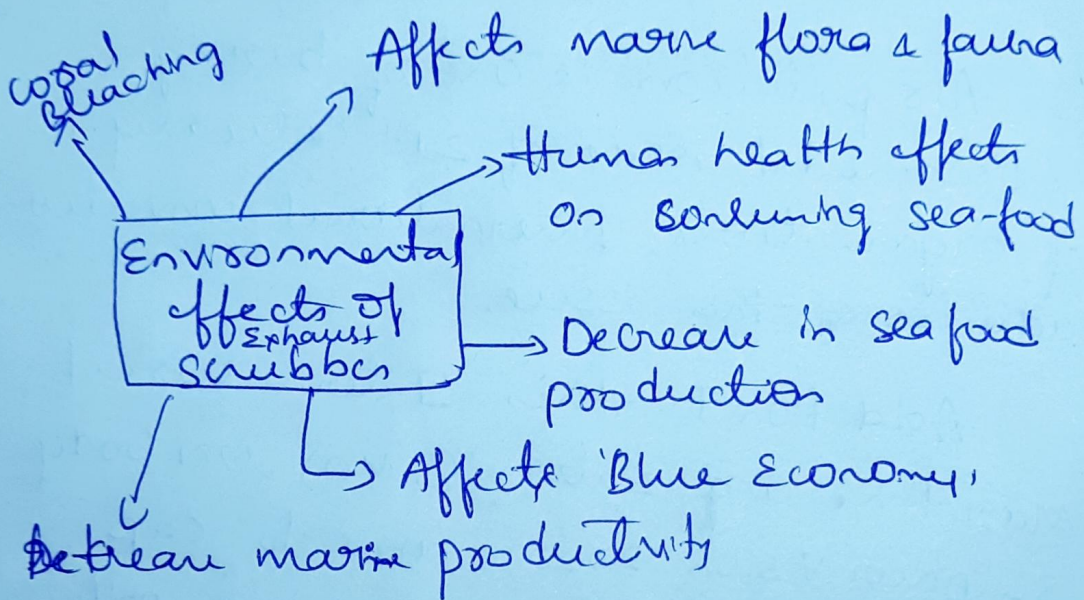
Addition to this International Maritime Organization (IMO), UN body Sulphur Vision 2020, aims to cap Sulphur content (one of major air polluter) in ship's fuel thus reducing 77% of SOx is commendable

However major Issue is unaddressed
* Sulphur light fuels are expensive
use of Exhaust scrubbers are allowed

* These Exhaust scrubbers use high volume-high speed water spray absorb pollutants from exhaust

* There are 2 type of scrubber
Open loop → Dump waste water sea
close loop → treated before return to sea

* However data from 2015-21 shows major ships adopts open-loop & both scrubbers release dangerous pollutants & toxic chemicals to sea.



Way Forward

It requires strict regulation either to adopt closed loop exhaust scrubbers or scientific advancement (like catalytic converters in motor vehicles)

Thus IMO should not allow one kind of pollution to mutate into another in the name of green action and should keep SDG 14 - "Life on Sea" in mind