

International Maritime Organisation move to reduce pollution of the air by ships, ironically drives up sea water pollution. Explain (200 Words)

On the lines of fighting climate change IMO (International Maritime Organisation) has adopted reduction of sulphur to a new limit of 0.5% in ships' fuel oil. This could reduce 77% drop in SO₂ emission in sea.

Rule and its failure

Since sulphur rich fuel are expensive IMO allowed installations of scrubbers to filter and absorb the pollutants. Adopting these norms ships used open scrubbers which releases wastewater directly into sea without treating.

This led to environmental pollution through out the busiest water routes of world deteriorating the water quality and destructing the ecosystem. Possible implications are

- (i) Invasive species growth in a rapid way
- (ii) Destruction of sea gears, coral reefs
- (iii) Releasing scrubber water near ports will affect smaller fish farmers.

To prevent this ships can opt
for cleaner fuels like marine gasoil, very low
sulphur fuel. Further for continuous implementation
Nations and IMO must ensure proper monitoring
under Annex VI - MARPOL

Thus by following such policies
achieving the Agenda of SDG-14 life below water
would be uncomplicated. India and Norwegian
Initiative is working towards alternative fuels
and recycling of fuel waste