Green Marine applauds IMO’s new timeline to achieve net-zero shipping emissions

Quebec City, QC, Thursday, July 20, 2023 – The International Maritime Organization’s revised strategy for worldwide shipping to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by or close to 2050 is welcomed by Green Marine.

“Having this new goal set for global shipping will help to curb the planet’s warming by truly prioritizing the research and development of innovative solutions to decarbonize the industry,” says David Bolduc, Green Marine’s president, says. “Many ship owners have already been keenly focused on this mission but having this common international goal will help to pool the knowledge and resources from within our industry, as well as governments, academia, and both existing and new energy producers.”

Green Marine had already revised its criteria for ship owners last year to pursue a net-zero trajectory. The environmental certification program’s highest Level 5 criteria in 2023 sets out the goal of achieving decarbonization by 2050.

Always seeking to set goals above and beyond existing or imminent regulations, the criteria revision also planned to establish a more ambitious step in the direction of full decarbonization at the program Level 4 requirements. In 2023, the yearly GHG reduction target for ship owners at Level 4 was revised to progressively increase from 1% to 1.8% by 2030 to attain an overall 40% reduction in GHG intensity compared with a 2008, the baseline year.


Green Marine overview

Founded in 2007, Green Marine’s North American environmental certification program is celebrating its 15th year as a voluntary effort by the shipping industry to go beyond regulations. There are currently more than 175 ship owners, port authorities, terminal operators, and shipyard managers throughout Canada and the United States
participating in the program. A pivotal element of Green Marine’s success from the outset has been the active support from environmental stakeholders, the scientific community, and governments. Many of the more than 90 Green Marine supporters take part in reviewing and shaping the environmental program.

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