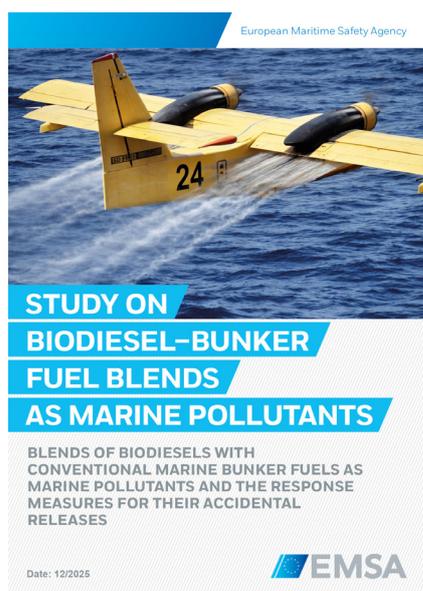


## NEW STUDY ON BIODIESEL-BUNKER FUEL BLENDS AS MARINE POLLUTANTS

A new study on blends of biodiesels with conventional marine bunker fuels has been commissioned by EMSA to address critical knowledge gaps concerning alternative fuels as potential marine pollutants, as well as the effectiveness of response measures in the event of accidental releases. Among the alternative fuels currently being deployed, biodiesel blends based on Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAME), Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and Fischer–Tropsch (FT) represent a near-term, “drop-in” solution compatible with existing marine engines and infrastructure. Blends such as B20, B30 and B50, used with Marine Gas Oil (MGO) or Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO), enable emissions reductions without requiring major technical modifications in ship engines and supply chain. However, their behaviour as marine pollutants and the suitability of existing response measures in the event of accidental spills are not yet comprehensively documented, highlighting the need for a structured, evidence-based assessment grounded in results from experimental recovery tests. Conducted jointly by the World Maritime University (WMU) and Cedre, this study aims to support the maritime sector by strengthening spill contingency planning, preparedness, and response as the transition to alternative fuels accelerates. The study was structured around four main activities (Tasks), covering the full chain from fuel properties and hazards to regulatory frameworks and operational response. Together, these activities provide a comprehensive assessment of biodiesel blends as marine pollutants and identify practical, proportionate adaptations needed within existing response systems. [Download the report here.](#)



## NEW STUDIES ON HULL AIR LUBRICATION SYSTEMS AND ON-BOARD CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGIES PUBLISHED

EMSA has published two new studies on alternative fuels and power sources for shipping one on [Hull Air Lubrication Systems](#) (ALS) for maritime shipping and the other on [On-board Carbon Capture Technologies](#). ALS technologies aim to reduce a ship's frictional resistance by injecting air into the turbulent water boundary layer beneath the hull, thereby reducing frictional drag and lowering the ship's power demand, fuel consumption, and therefore its GHG emissions. The study focuses on the technological maturity, economic viability, regulatory context, and safety implications of these systems. On-board Carbon Capture Technologies capture carbon from the fuel before carbon dioxide is produced by the ship's energy system, or capture CO<sub>2</sub> in the exhaust gases. The study looks at different types of technologies, feasibility studies, pilots, and concepts for areas like mineralisation and pre-combustion technologies. The studies were presented at EMSA's 4th Workshop on alternative fuels and power sources for shipping, held on 16 and 17 November. Also discussed were recently released studies on hydrogen and ammonia as fuels for shipping. The event gathered guest speakers and expert panellists from around the EU for two days of discussion and debate.



The 4th workshop on alternative fuels and power sources gathered speakers and delegates from all across the EU and beyond.

## 22ND INTER-SECRETARIAT MEETING TAKES PLACE AT EMSA

On 3 and 4 February, EMSA hosted the 22nd Inter-Secretariat meeting between Regional Agreement Secretariats, the European Commission and EMSA, in our Lisbon headquarters and online. These meetings, held annually, provide a unique forum for exchanging information, sharing good practices, and providing inter-regional updates on ongoing work in European sea waters, as well as discussing topics of common interest in the fields of marine pollution prevention, prevention and response. This year's meeting agenda included ongoing work on new generation / alternative fuels pollution response, regional developments regarding the reduction of EGCS discharge waters and ongoing developments under the revised Ship Source Pollution Directive



The Inter-Secretariat meeting is an important forum for discussion and debate, held annually at EMSA

## VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER CATHERINE CHABAUD

The French Minister for the Sea and Fisheries, Catherine Chabaud, paid a visit to EMSA on 9 February. Minister Chabaud was welcomed by our Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, and her senior management team. Ms. Markovčić Kostelac briefed Minister Chabaud on our work, projects, and activities.



## [emsa.europa.eu](https://emsa.europa.eu)

**PROCUREMENT:** LRPAS Services for Emissions Monitoring - deadline extended - (17/03/2026). Service contracts for oil spill recovery vessel(s): East Mediterranean Sea (18/03/2026). LRPAS Services for Emissions Monitoring (03/03/2026). EU Risk Analysis of marine oil pollution by ships and by oil and gas installations (18/03/2026). Provision of satellite images and value added products for Maritime Surveillance based on Sentinel-2 sensors (23/03/2026). See website for more.