

GHG and Air Quality Emission Characterization for Alternative Marine Fuels



Patrick Kirchen

Jeremy Rochussen, Mhanna Mhanna, Nicolas Jaeger,
Isaac Becker, Ahmed Abdalla, Mark Guan

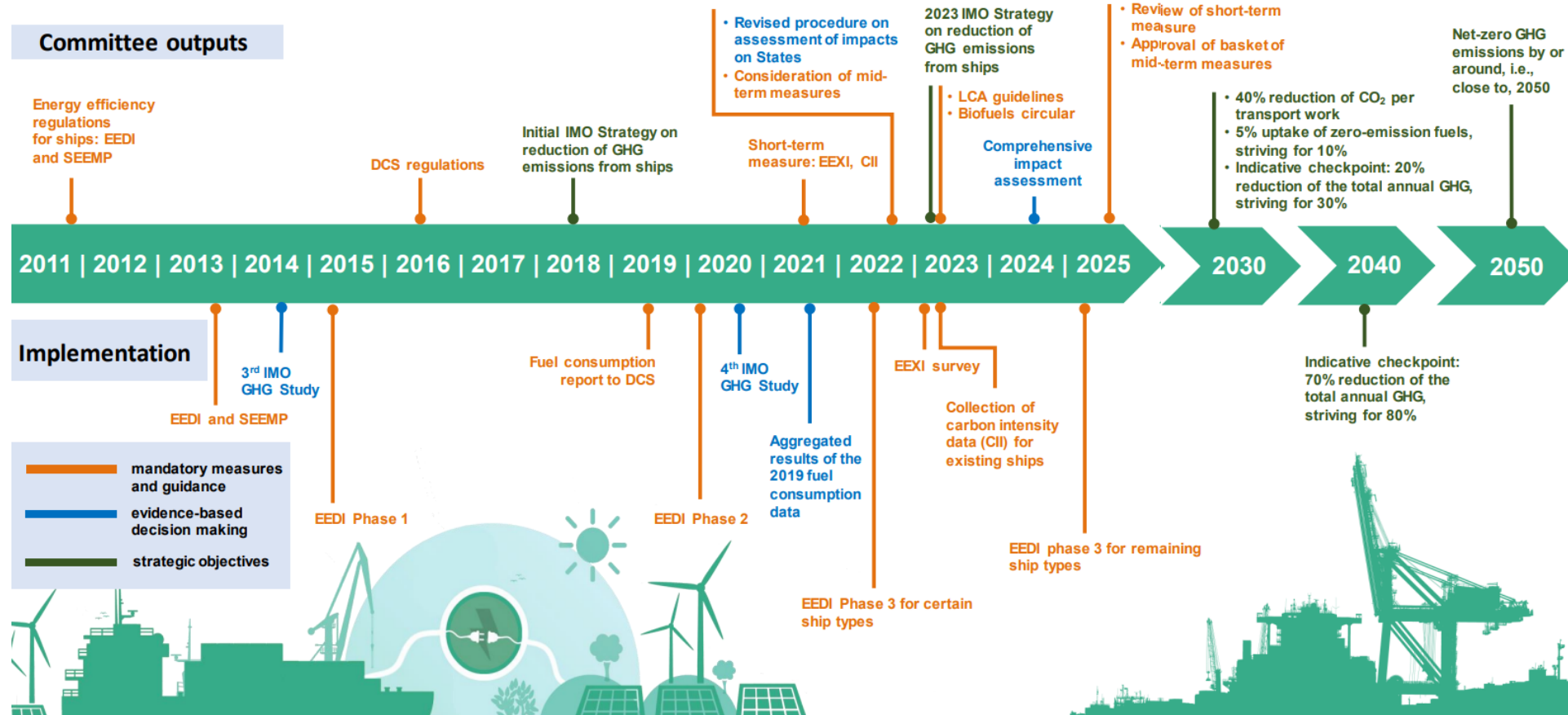
University of British Columbia
Department of Mechanical Engineering

IMO's APPROACH TO GHG REDUCTION

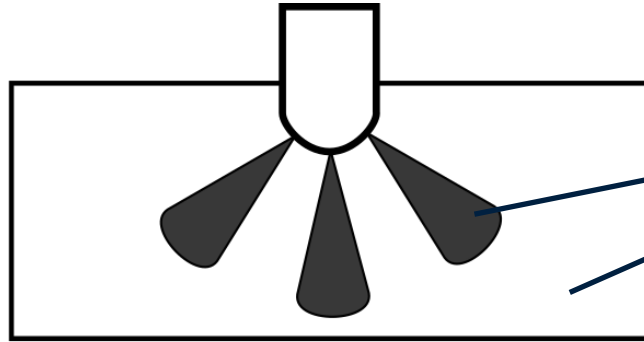


Addressing climate change

Over a decade of regulatory action to cut GHG emissions from shipping



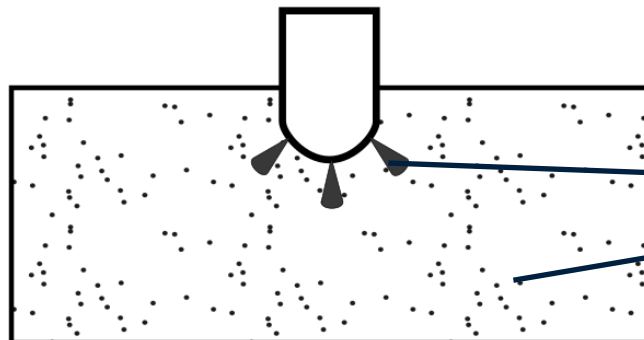
Dual Fuel Combustion



Diesel Combustion

Diesel (liquid)

Air

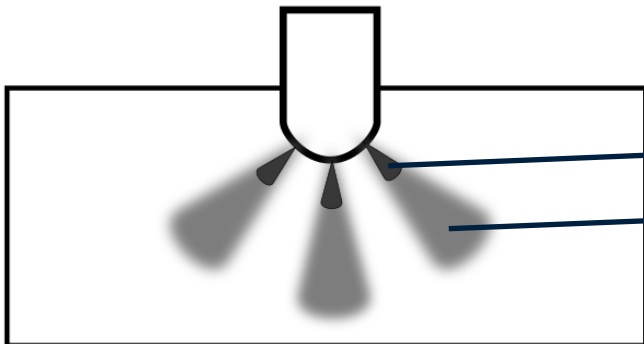


Low Pressure Dual Fuel (LPDF)

Liquid pilot fuel for ignition

Pre-mixed gaseous fuel
Natural gas, Hydrogen, etc

Retrofits/Conversions
Heavy duty vehicles
Stationary engine
Marine engines



High Pressure Direct Injection (HPDI)

Liquid pilot fuel for ignition

Direct injected gaseous fuel

Natural gas, hydrogen, etc

Heavy duty vehicles

Marine engines

HPDI: High Pressure Direct Injection

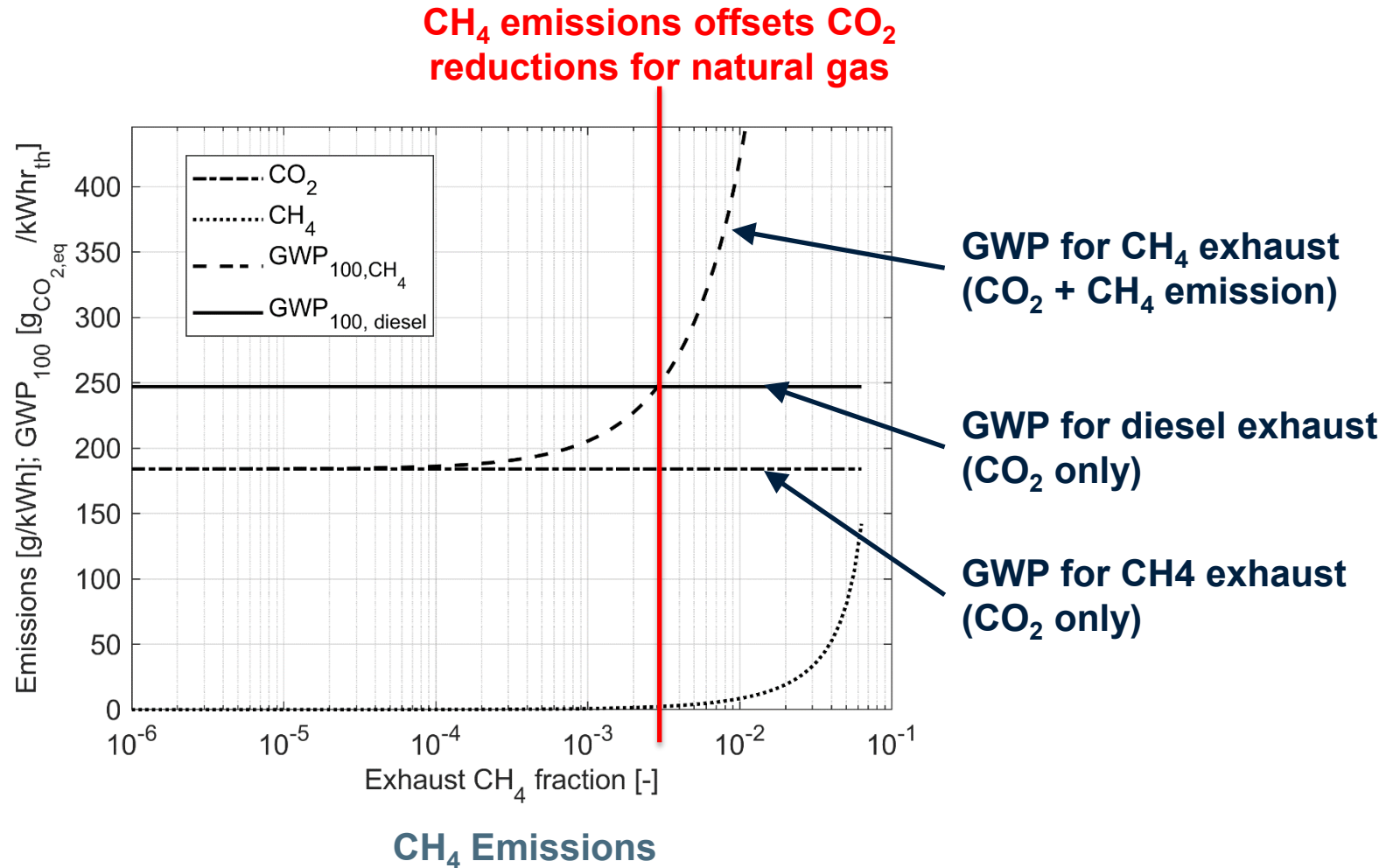
LPDF: Low Pressure Dual Fuel

CASE STUDY: GHG Emissions from a NG LPDF Marine Vessel



OBJECTIVE: Evaluate and minimize actual Tank to Wake GHG exhaust emissions for LPDF natural gas vessels

- LPDF provides CO₂, NO_x, SO_x, and PM reductions
- Any CH₄ slip will negate CO₂ savings and can result in higher GHG emissions relative to diesel



CASE STUDY: GHG Emissions from a NG LPDF Marine Vessel

Methodology



Instrument	Measurand	Comment
AVL 493 iX PEMS (incl. FID)	CO ₂ , CO, O ₂ NO, NO ₂ CH ₄ , nmHC	H2 fuel needed Not CH ₄ specific
Bruker MG5 FTIR	CO ₂ , CH ₄ , CO, NO, NO ₂ , H ₂ O, ...	Cost Process gasses / LN ₂ Significant training
Commercial IR absorption System	Low cost Multi-species Turnkey	Low cost, turnkey; can be inaccurate for exhaust CH ₄
WMS (IR absorption)	CH ₄	Calibration free Not (yet) commercially available Requires training
Bag + off vessel FTIR/GC/MS	Multispecies Uses reference instruments	Slow Expensive (instrument or service) No time resolution

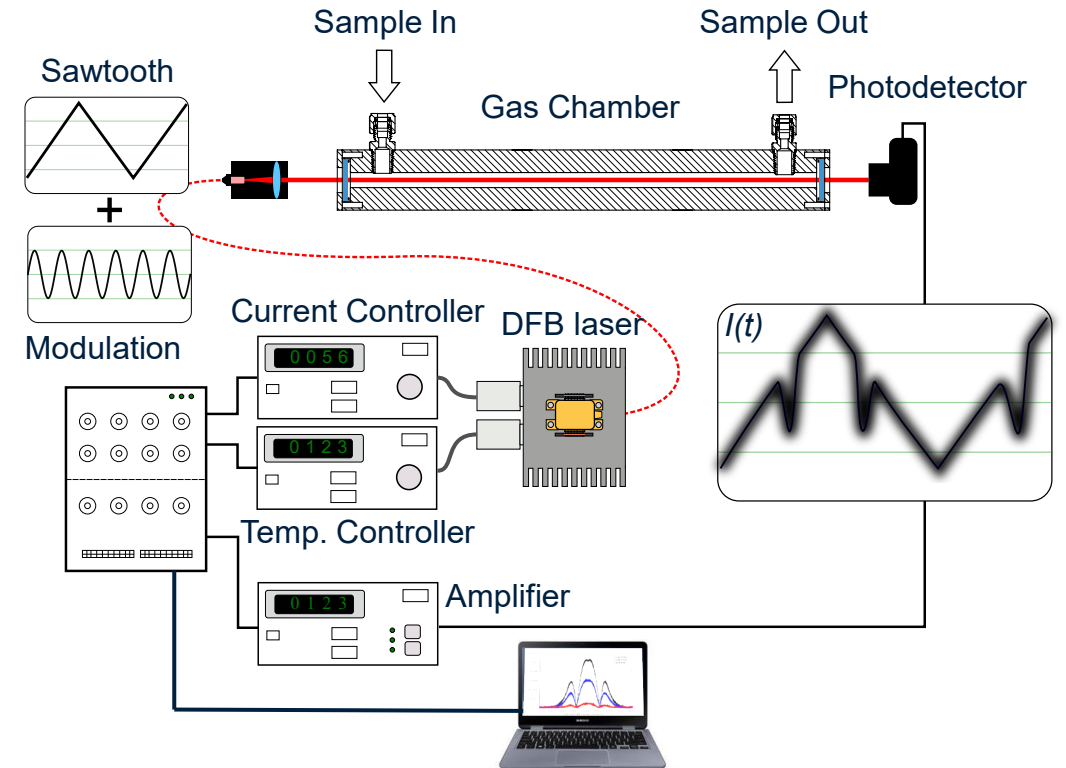
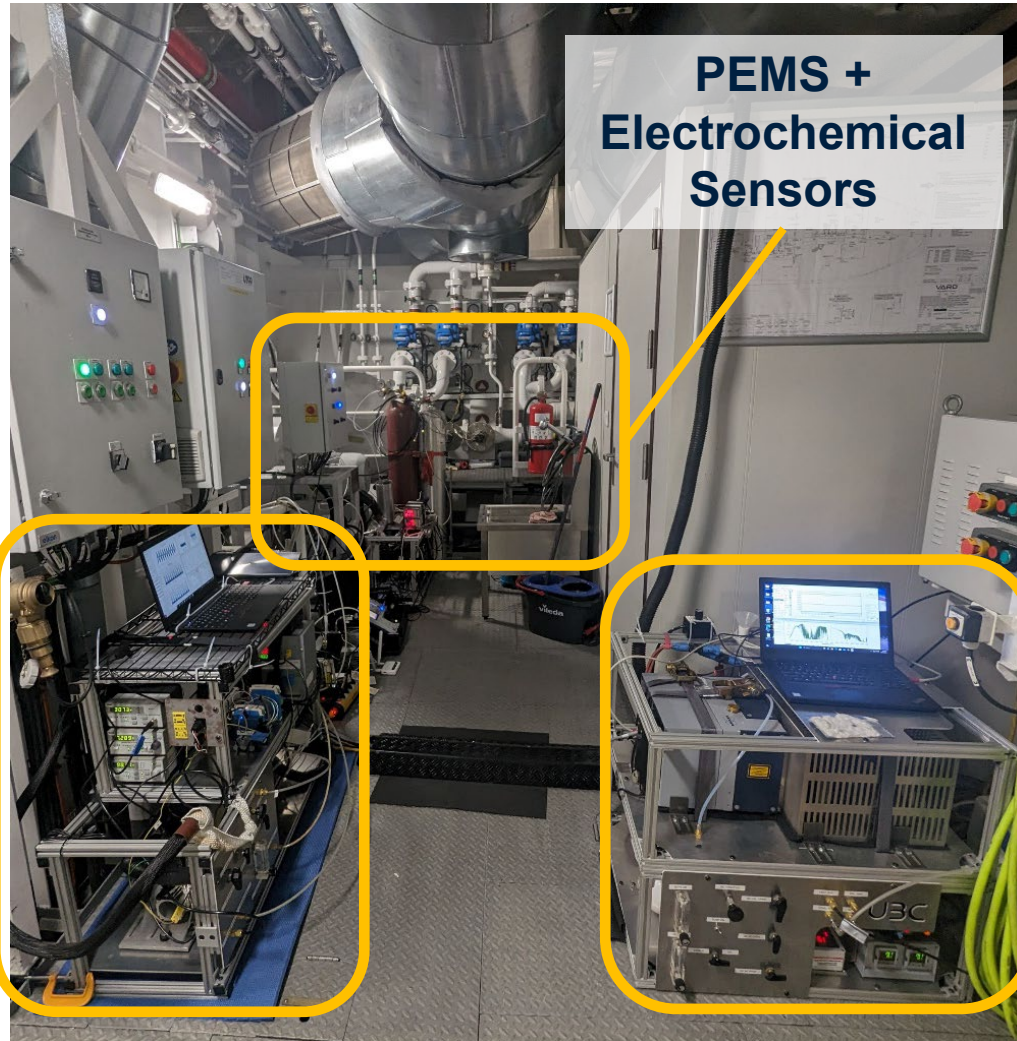


SEASPAN RELIANT
 2x Wärtsilä 9L34DF Engines
 (2x4.3MW; 4-stroke; med. speed)
 LNG and Diesel Fuel Systems
 Battery Bank (468 kWh)

CASE STUDY: GHG Emissions from a NG LPDF Marine Vessel



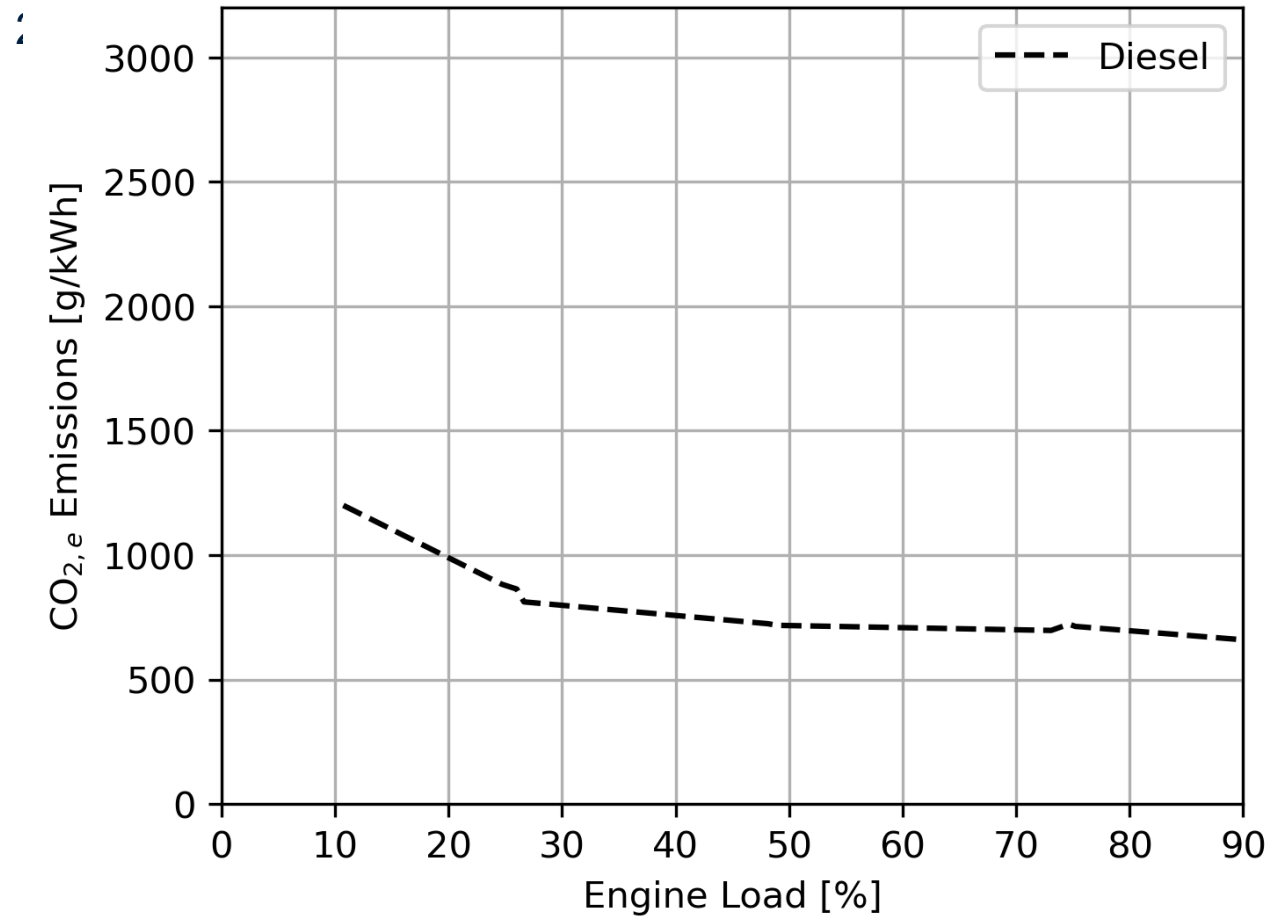
Methodology



Wavelength Modulation Spectroscopy (WMS) for “calibration-free” CH₄ Measurement

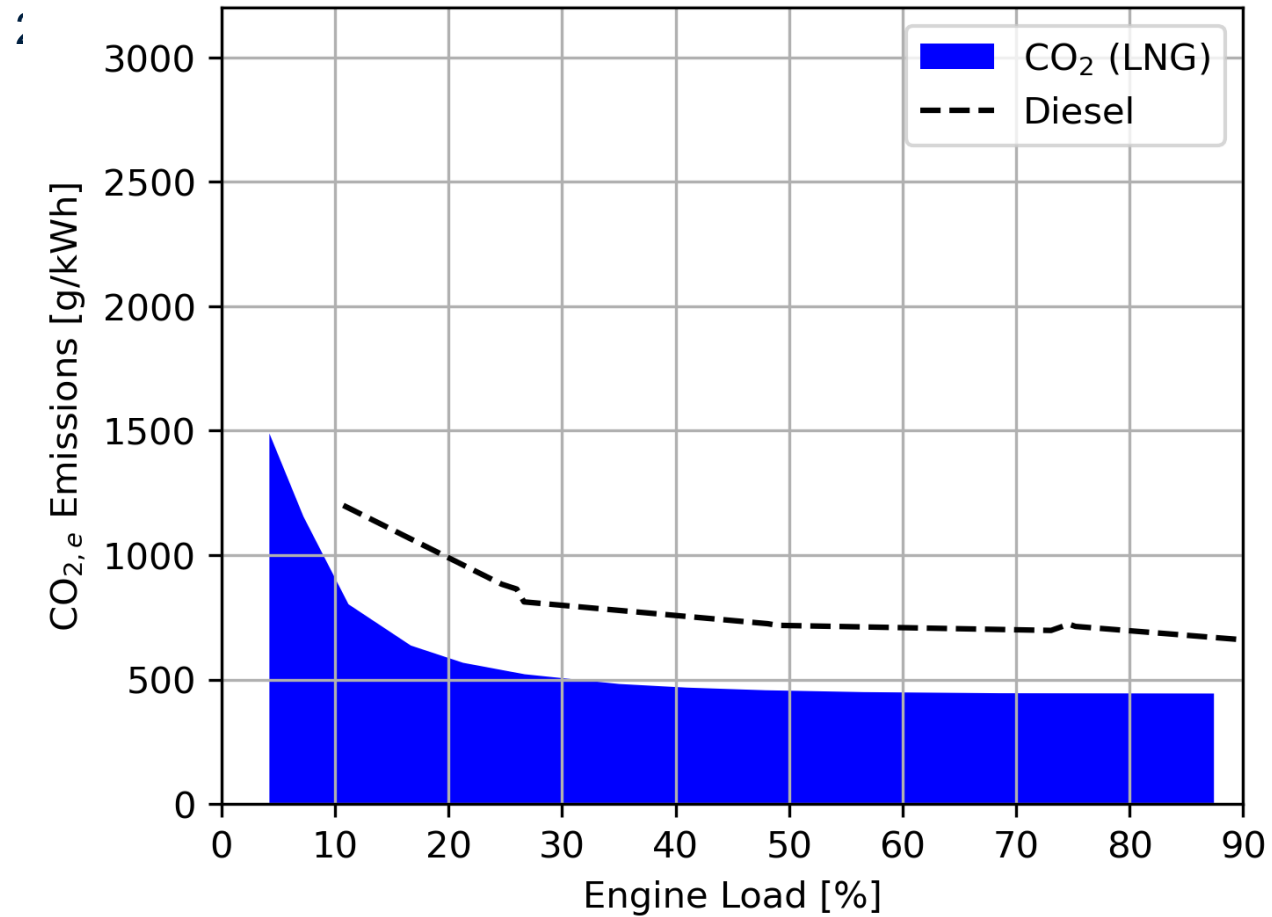
Sommer, et al. Environmental Science and Technology. 2019
Sommer, et al. CIMAC 2019
Cohen-Sacal, et al. SAE 2021
Jaeger, et al. CICS 2022
Mhanna, et al. CICS 2024
Mhanna et al. under preparation
Jaeger, et al. under preparation

2018: Tank to Wake GHG Emissions – Diesel



Sommer, et al. Env. Sci. Tech. 2019
Sommer, et al. CIMAC 2019
Peng, et al. Env. Poll. 2020
Rochussen, et al. Fuel. 2023

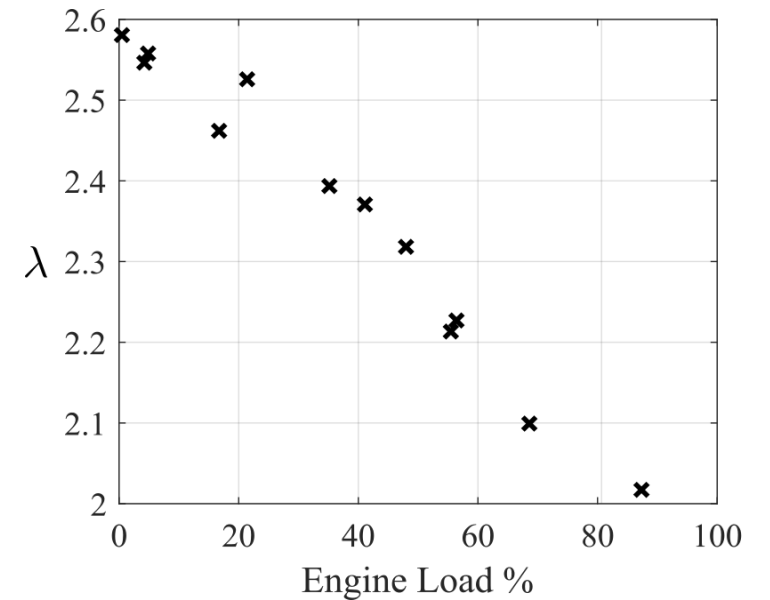
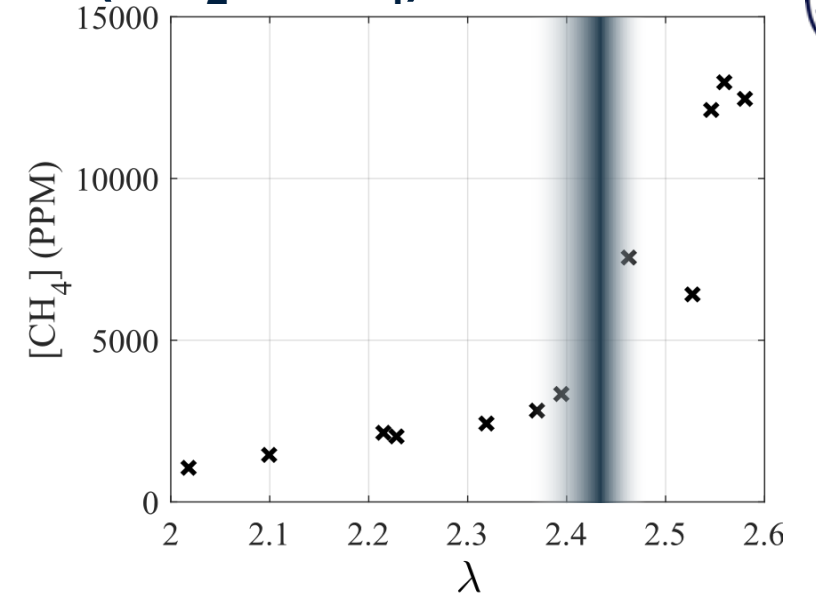
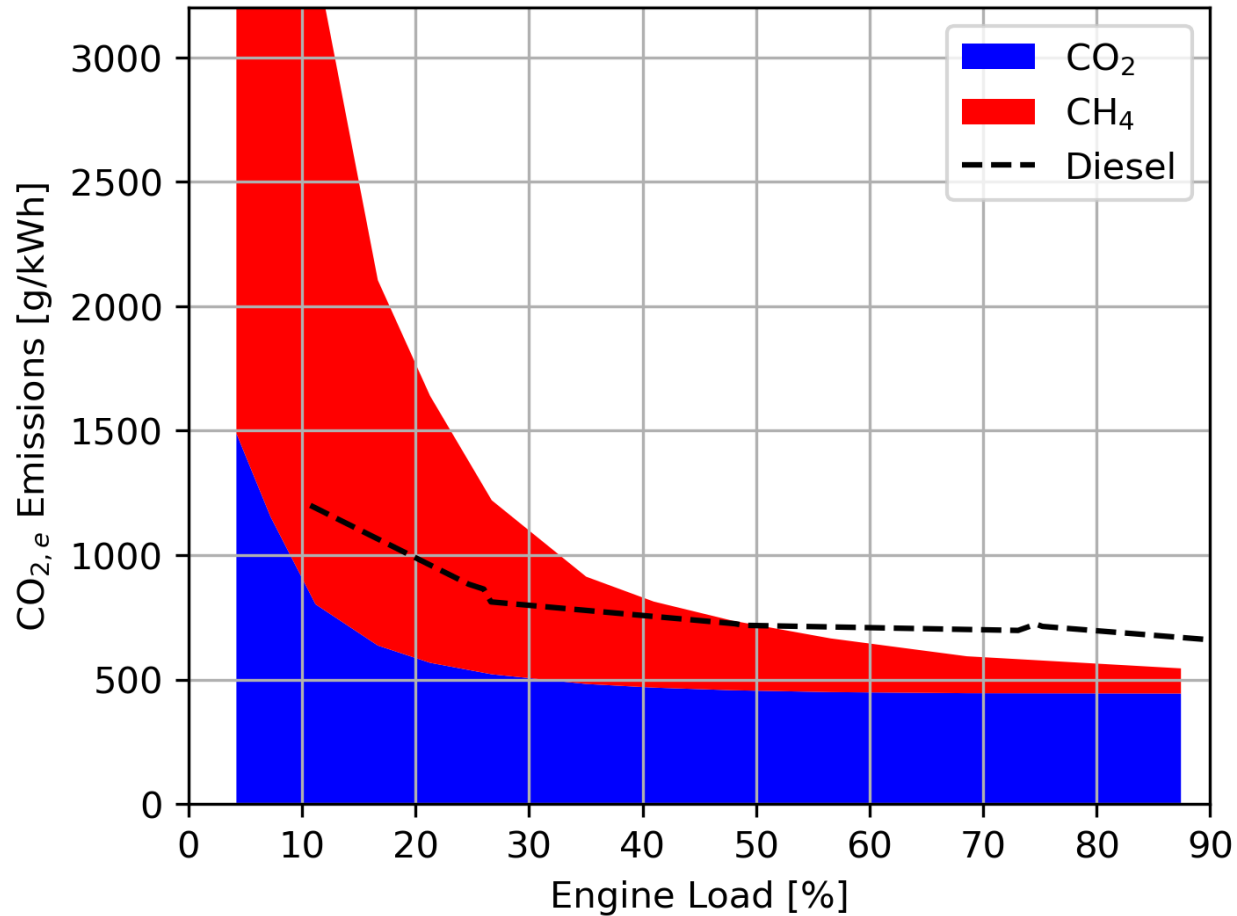
2018: Tank to Wake GHG Emissions – Diesel vs LNG (CO₂)



Sommer, et al. Env. Sci. Tech. 2019
Sommer, et al. CIMAC 2019
Peng, et al. Env. Poll. 2020
Rochussen, et al. Fuel. 2023

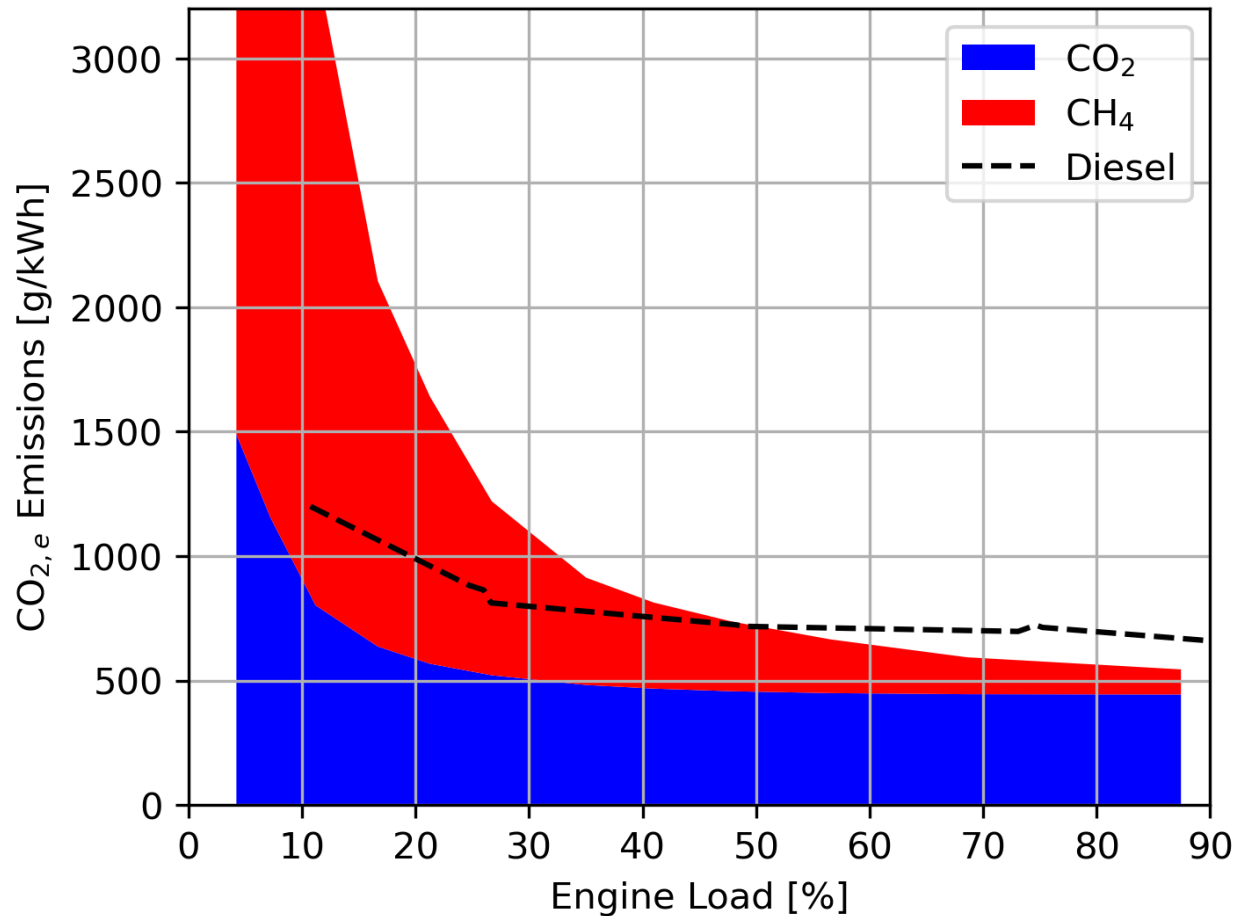
2018: Tank to Wake GHG Emissions – Diesel vs LNG ($\text{CO}_2 + \text{CH}_4$)

Lean
flammability
limit



Sommer, et al. Env. Sci. Tech. 2019
 Sommer, et al. CIMAC 2019
 Peng, et al. Env. Poll. 2020
 Rochussen, et al. Fuel. 2023

TODAY: Tank to Wake GHG Emissions – Diesel vs LNG (CO₂ + CH₄)



Modified engine control strategy developed by engine manufacturer to reduce CH₄ emissions

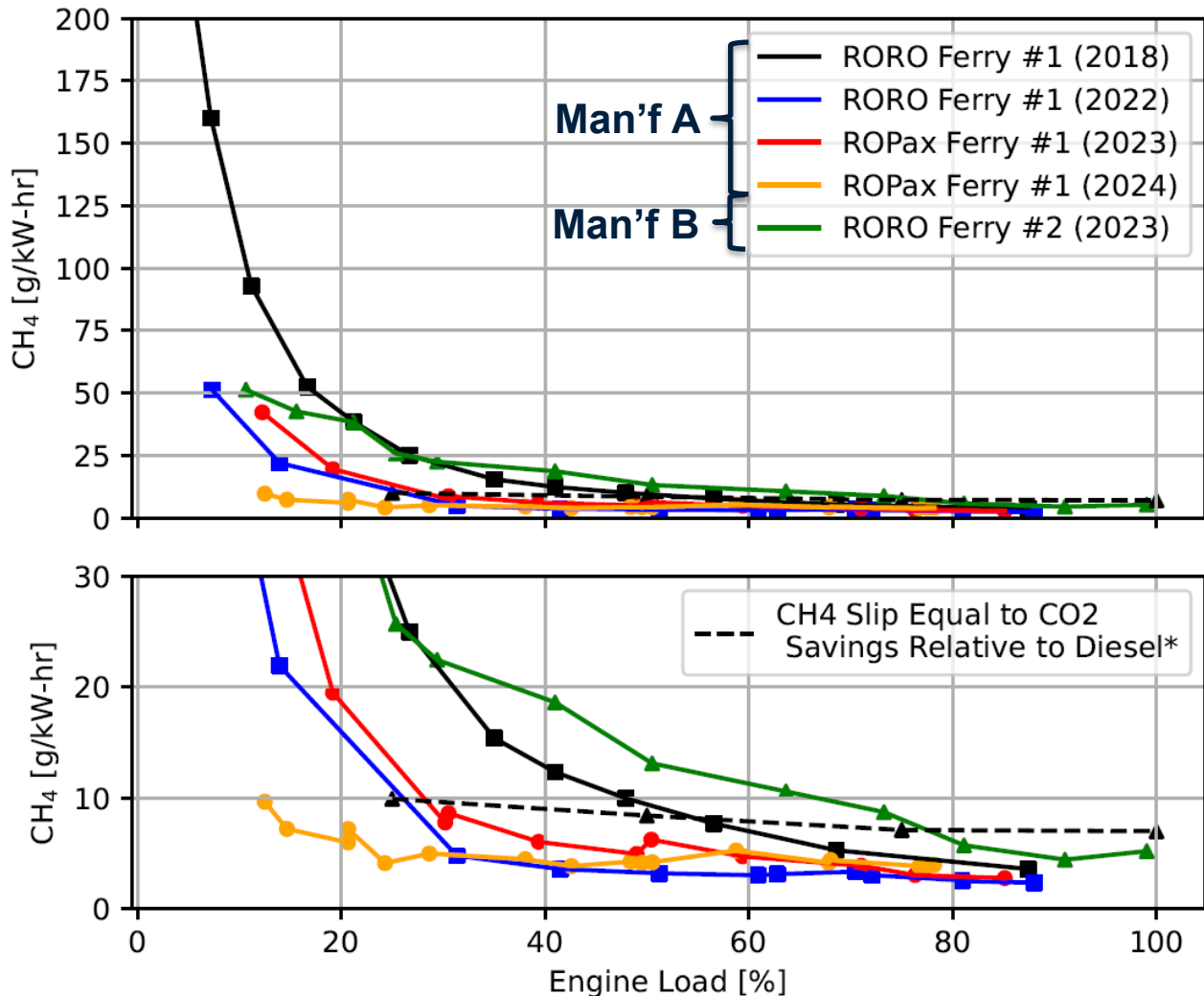
Measures include:

- Cylinder deactivation
- Decreased air fuel ratio at low loads
- Optimized pilot injection

Overall Tank to Wake GHG savings with natural gas operation relative to diesel

Very low load CH₄ emissions still problematic

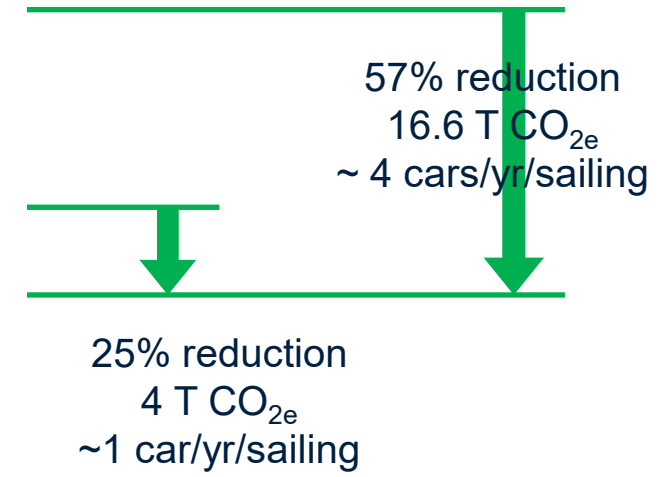
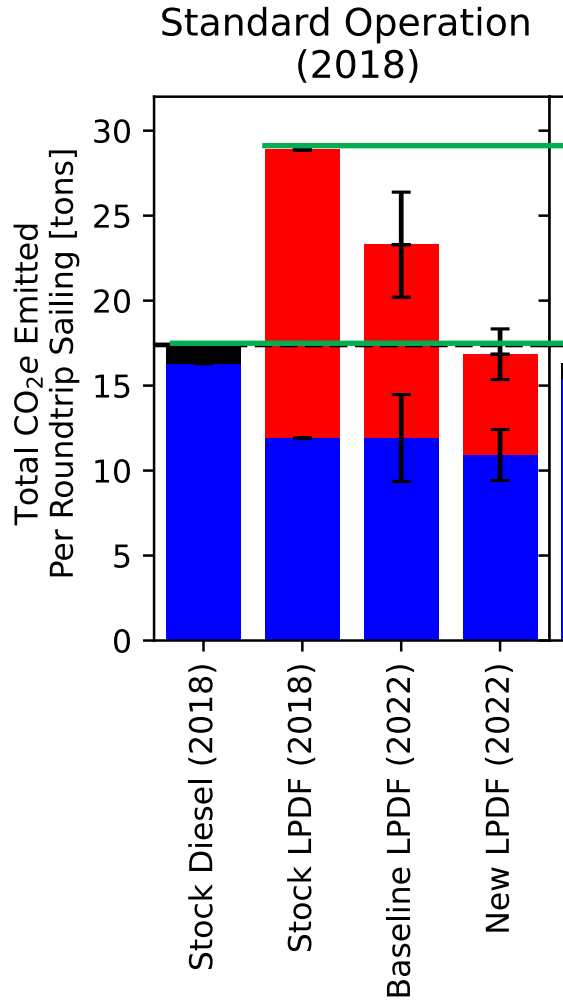
COMPARISON OF CH₄ EMISSIONS FOR MARINE LPDF ENGINES



- All engines are medium speed, 4-stroke, low pressure dual fuel (LPDF) with similar cylinder bore (~340mm)
- RORO #1:
 - Hybrid drive (genset+batt+emotor)
 - 2018: As delivered
 - 2022: Cylinder deactivation
 - 2023: + pilot and air path optimization
- RORO #2:
 - Hybrid drive (genset+batt+emotor)
 - 2023: As delivered
- ROPax #1:
 - Direct drive (shaft + variable pitch prop)
 - 2023: As delivered
 - 2024: Cyl. deac + pilot and air path optim.
- **Emissions depends on engine manufacturer, engine software, and vessel type**

RORO: Roll on, roll off
ROPax: Roll on + passenger

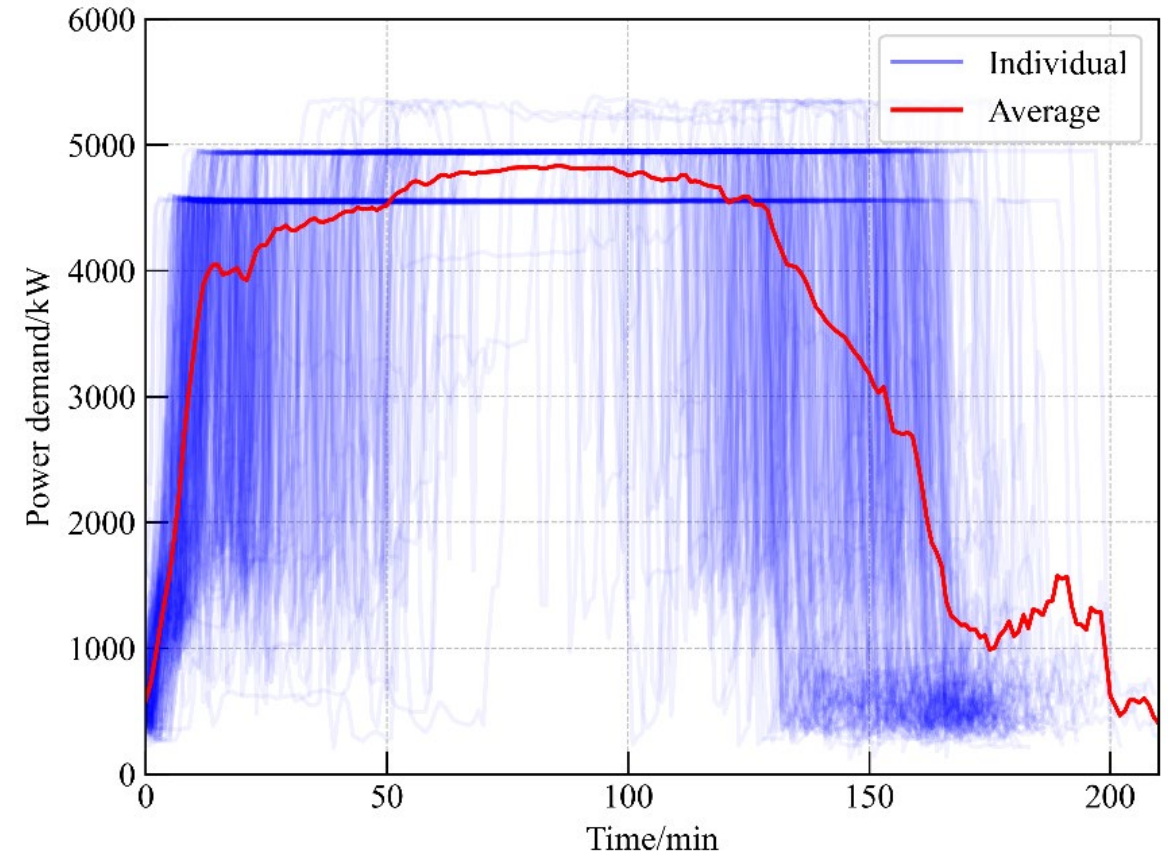
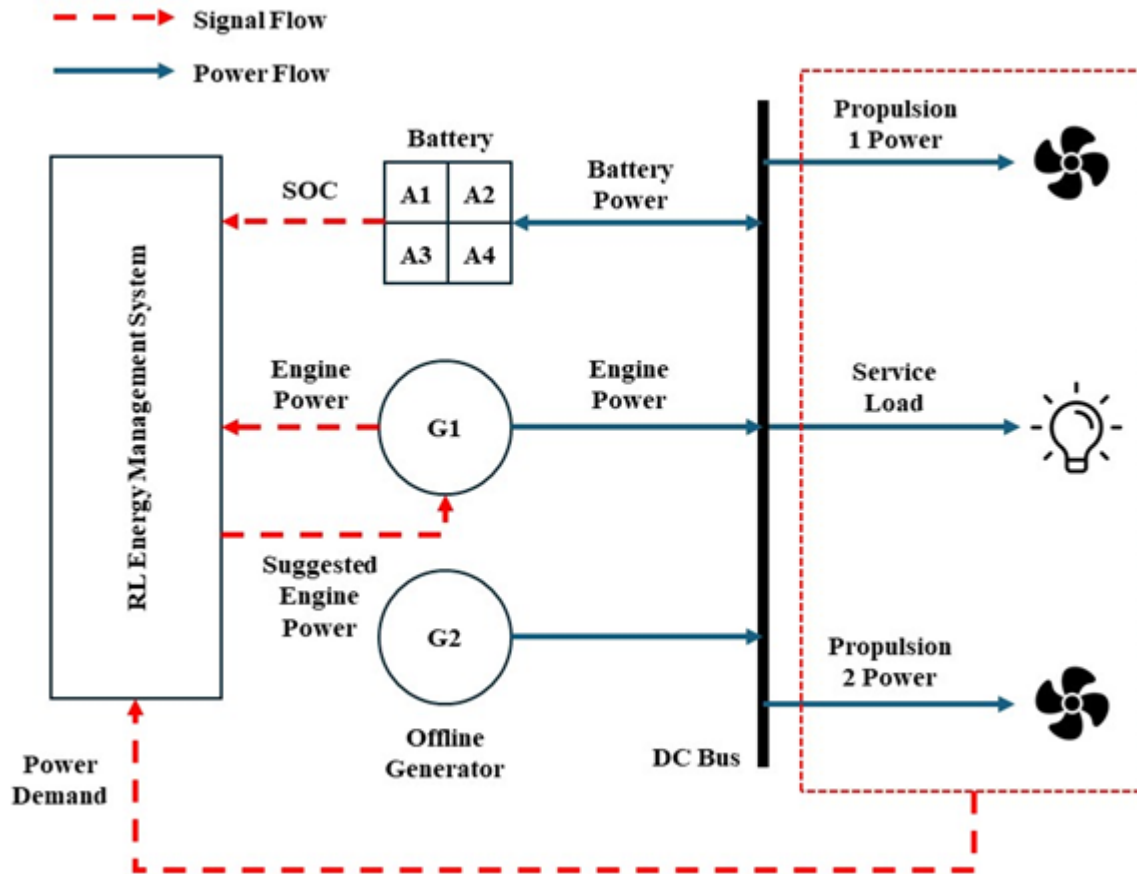
Combined Technological and Operational Measures for GHG Reduction



Sommer, et al. Env. Sci. Tech. 2019
 Sommer, et al. CIMAC 2019
 Peng, et al. Env. Poll. 2020
 Rochussen, et al. Fuel. 2023

Optimization of Power Management (NG-LPDF- Hybrid Vessel)

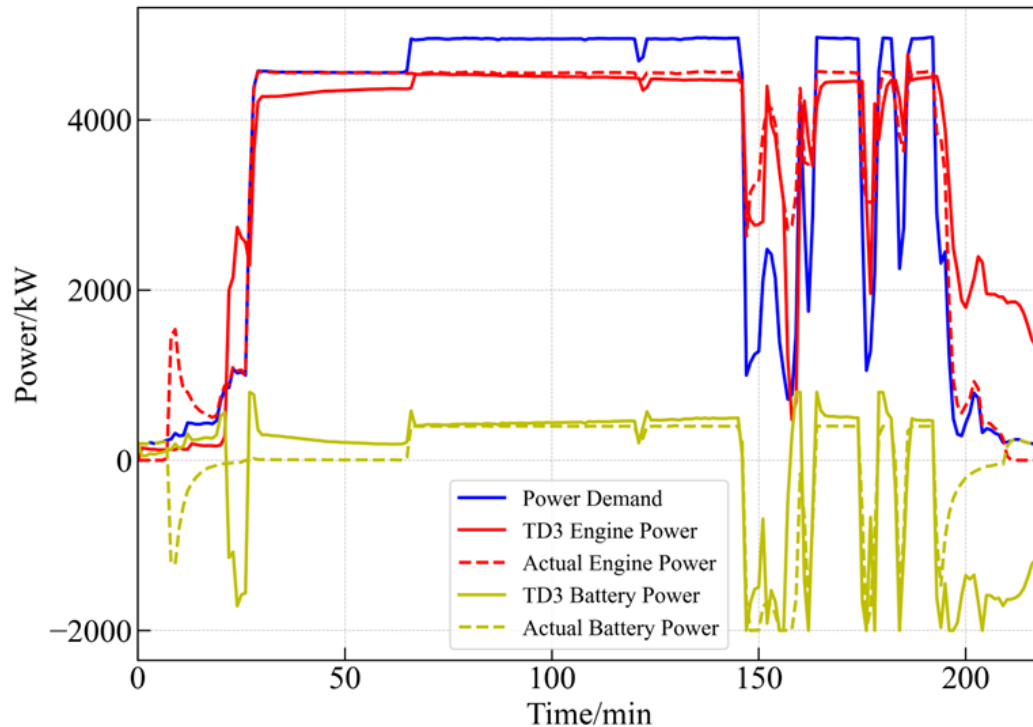
Reinforcement Learning for GHG Reductions



Measured emissions (steady state) and engine power histories (>300 sailings) used to train RL algorithm to identify instantaneous power distribution for minimum total GHG

Optimization of Power Management (NG-LPDF- Hybrid Vessel)

Reinforcement Learning for GHG Reductions



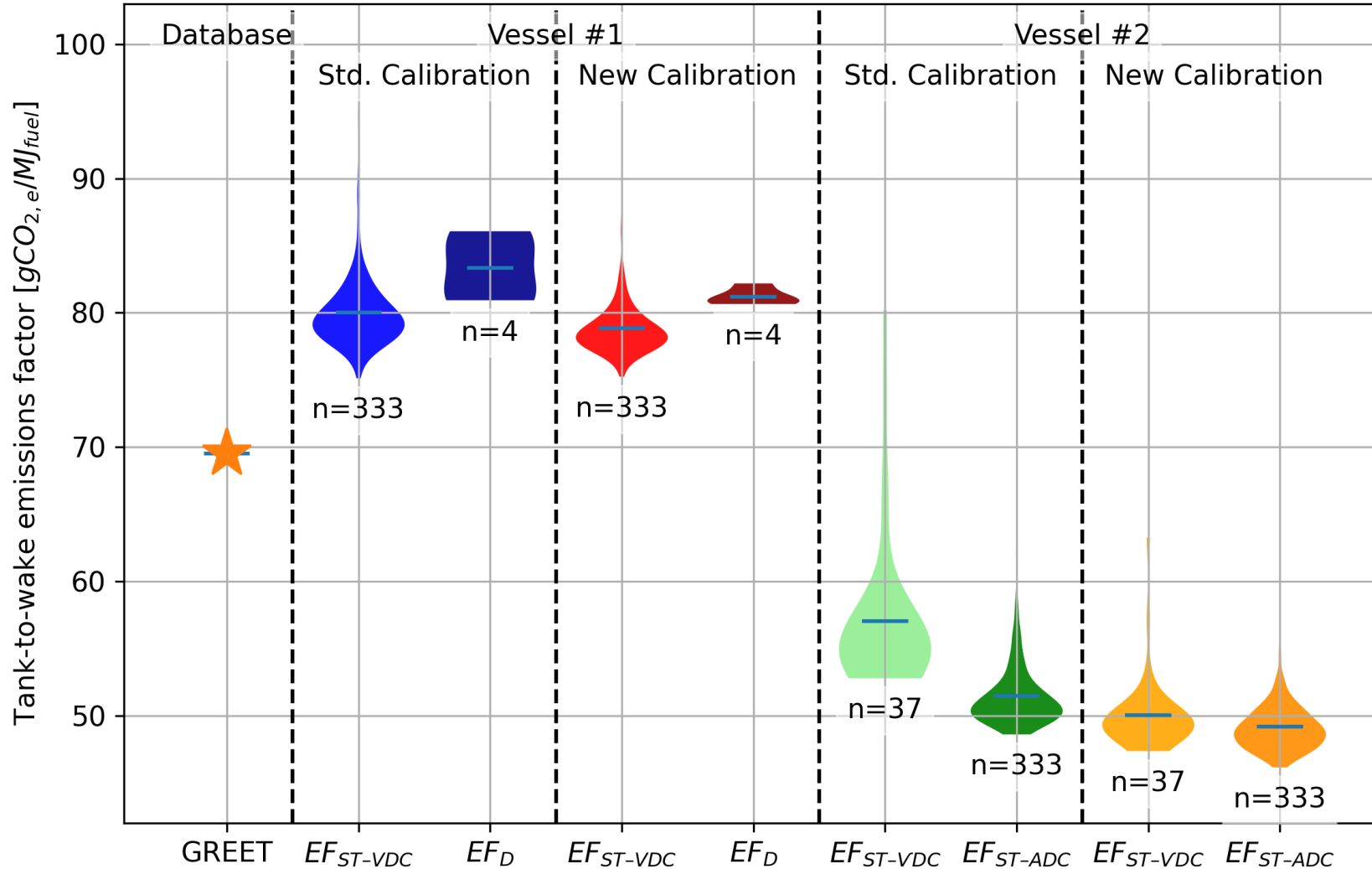
Sample RL-based power distribution for one-way sailing

Dataset & Algorithm	Methane Emissions Reduction (%)	Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction (%)
RL - TD3 (train)	25.8	-1.3
OO - SLSQP (train)	34.2	-1.2
RL - TD3 (test)	27.2	-1.3
OO - SLSQP (test)	33.0	-1.3

RL - TD3: Reinforcement Learning – Twin Delayed Deep Deterministic
OO - SLSQP: Offline Optimization – Sequential Least Squares Programming

Summary of predicted emission reductions using RL optimization, based on actual total vessel power demand for 300 cycles

Comparison of Tank to Wake CH₄ Emissions Factors (g_{CO_{2,e}}/MJ)



Tank to wake emissions vary considerable between similar vessels

Actual value is dependent on engine+vessel technology AND operation

GREET: Reference emission factor (Marine Module 2022)

ST-VDC: Emission factor calculated based on measured steady state emission data and instantaneous engine load

ST-ADC: Emission factor calculated based on measured steady state emission data and modified duty cycle

D: Emission factor measure directly for limited sailings

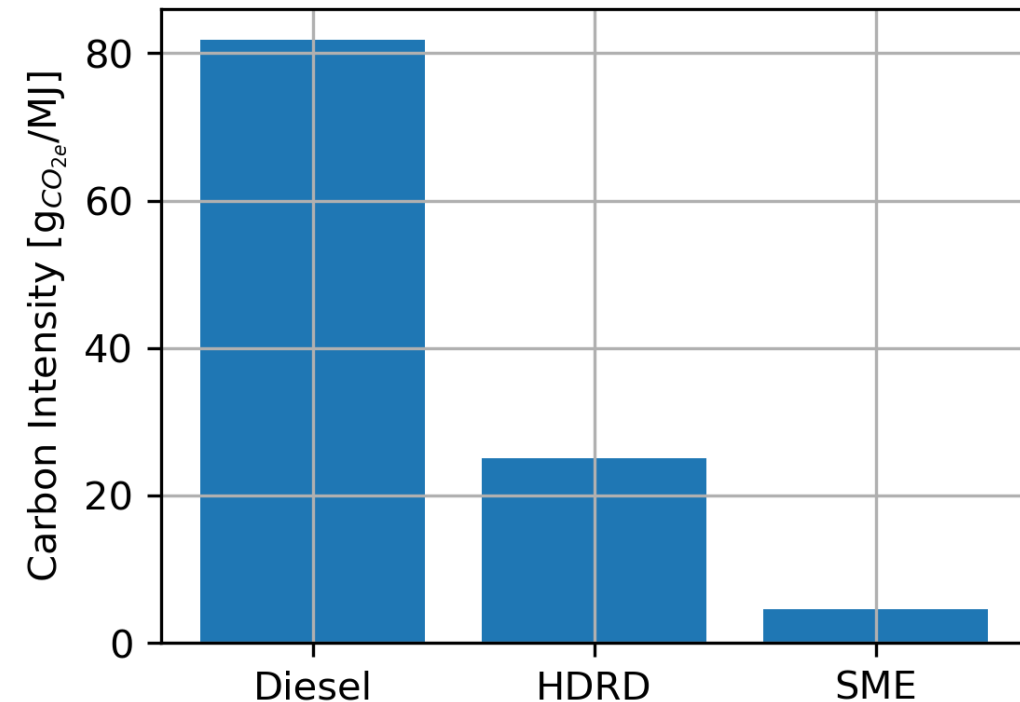
LIFECYCLE GHG EMISSION REDUCTION: Biofuels and Renewable Diesel



Biofuel (SME) and renewable diesel (HDRD) implemented on commercial vessels can provide “drop-in” solution for decarbonization of legacy vessels

Pilot studies provide much-needed operational and emissions data for policy and fleet development

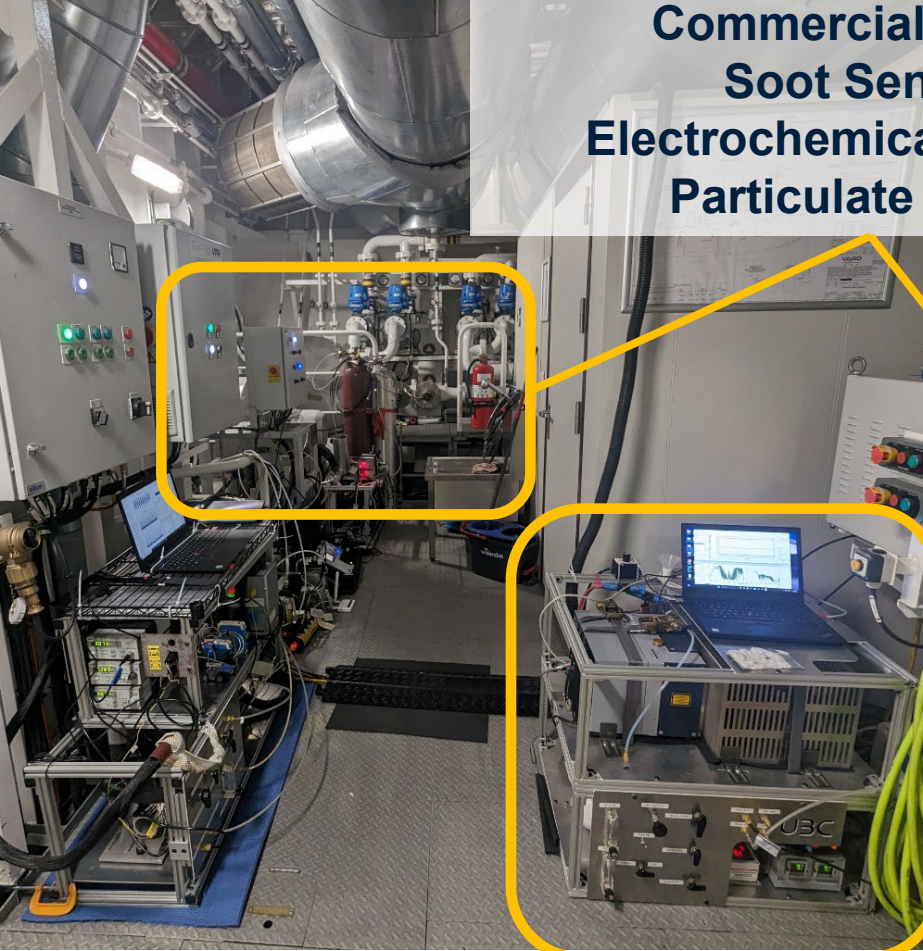
On-vessel measurement carried out for SME (RORO ferry) and HDRD (harbor tug) for seatrial and commercial operation.



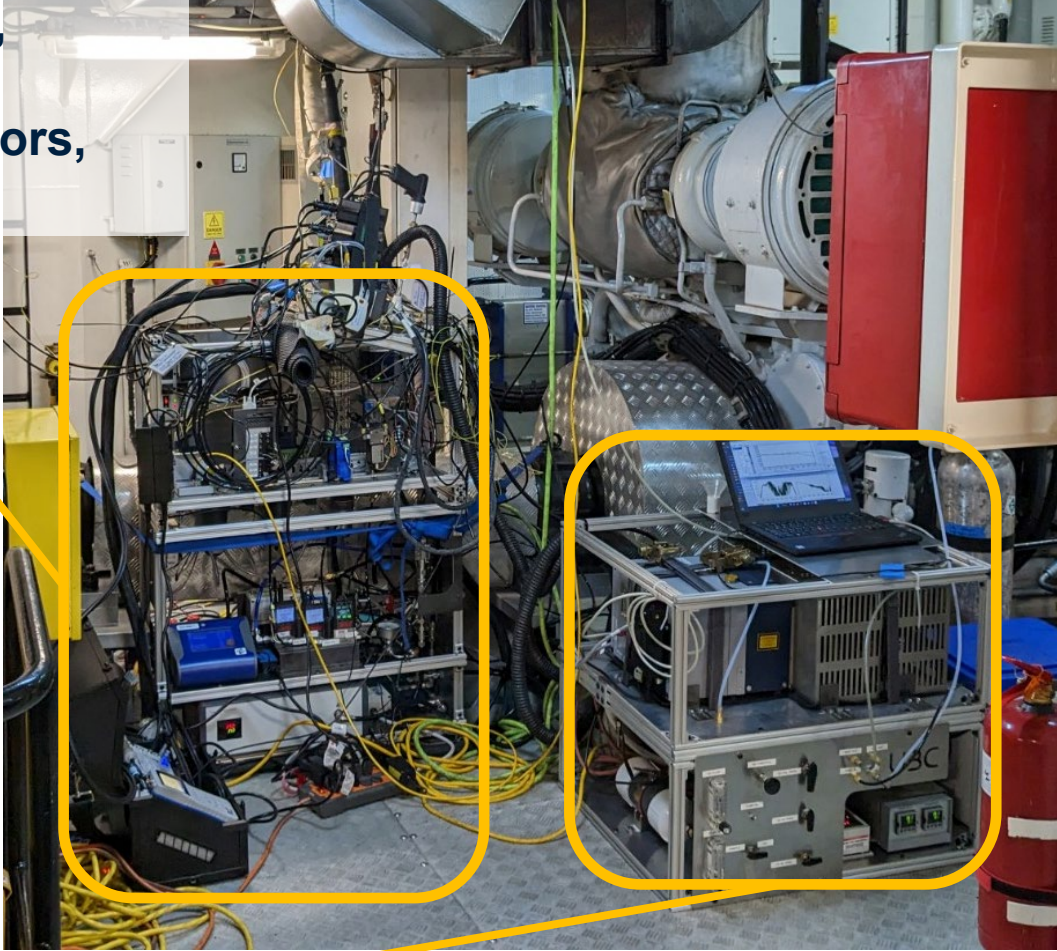
IN-USE EMISSION MEASUREMENTS – Instrumentation Installations



Commercial PEMS,
Soot Sensor,
Electrochemical Sensors,
Particulate Matter



Seaspan Trader RORO Ferry



Harbor Tug

FTIR

IN-USE EMISSION MEASUREMENTS



Exhaust modifications for accurate emission rate measurements



RORO Ferry – unloaded seatrials
Constant engine speed, variable load



Tug – bollard pull
Propeller curve

LIFECYCLE GHG EMISSION REDUCTION: Biofuels and Renewable Diesel

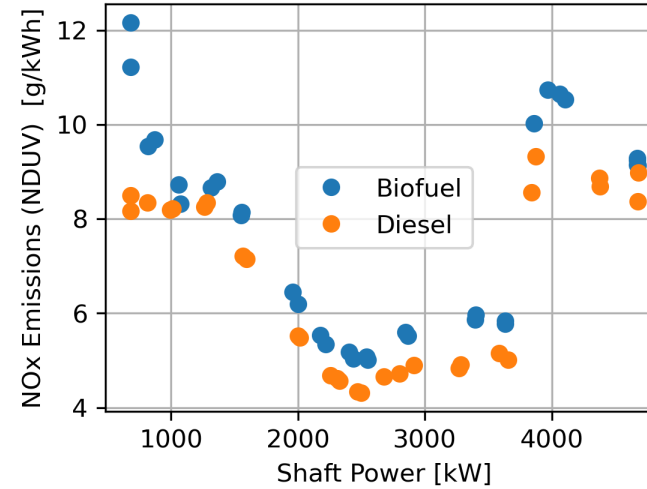
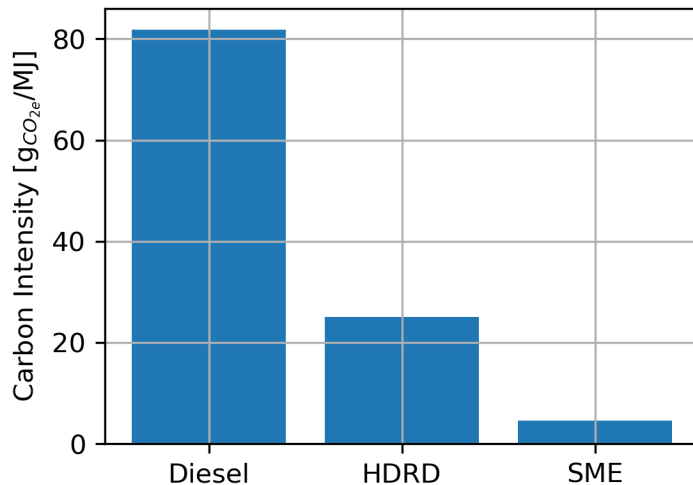


Soybean Methyl Ester (SME) relative to diesel (RORO):

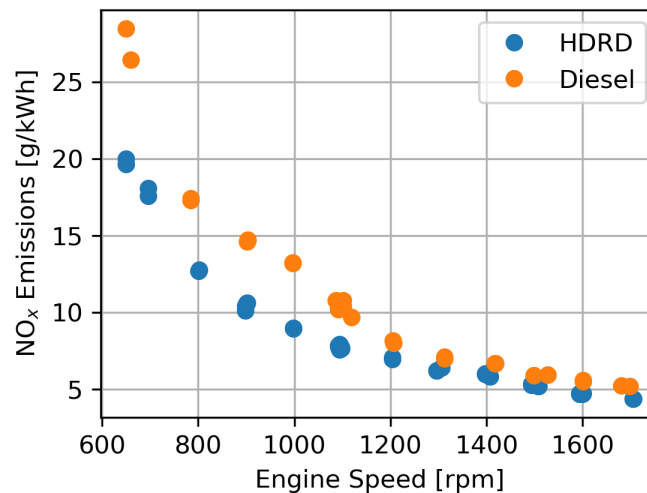
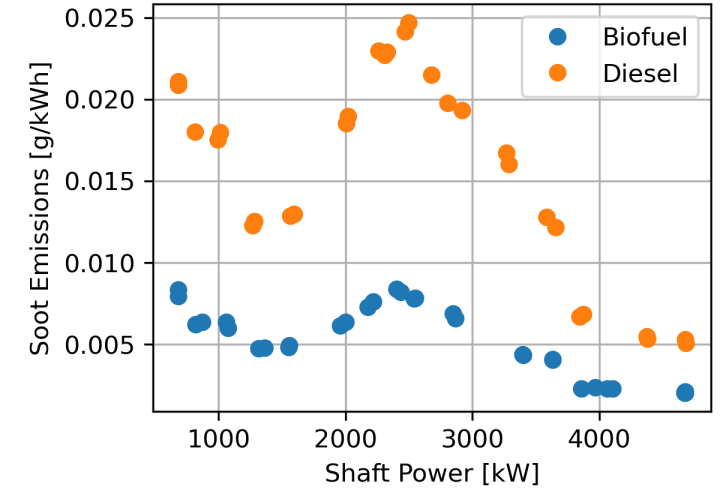
- Significant carbon intensity reduction
- Significant PM reduction
- NOx increase

HDRD relative to diesel (harbor tug):

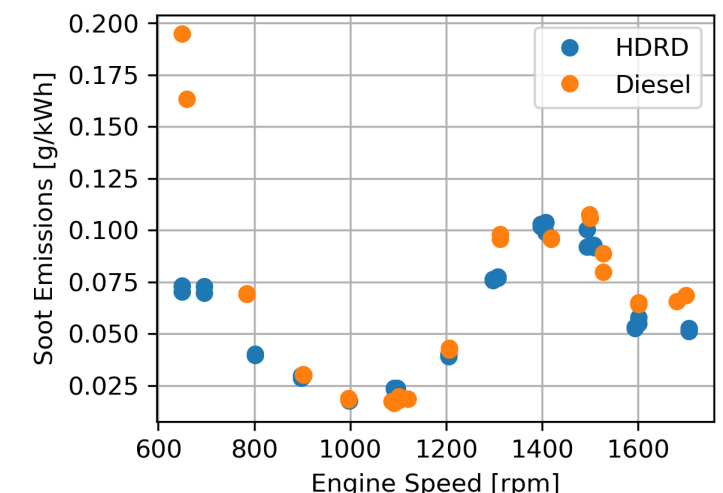
- Carbon intensity reduction
- NOx reduction
- PM unchanged



RORO Ferry operated with Diesel and biofuel (SME)



Harbour Tug operated with Diesel and HDRD



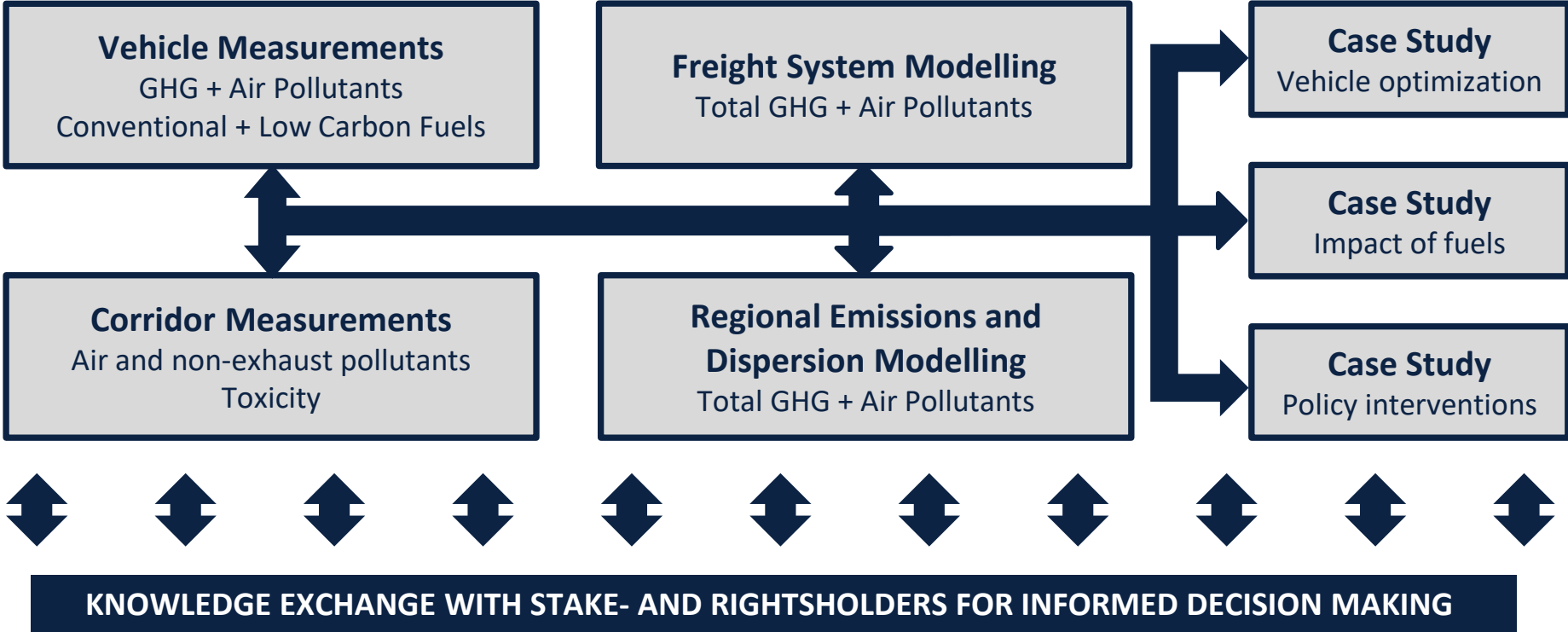
UBC Urban Freight Emissions Program



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Generate data, tools, and strategies to mitigate the greenhouse gas and air quality pollutants from urban freight vehicles



THANK YOU!



Seaspan: Harly Penner, Ahmed Khan, Daryl Lawes, Matt Vi

Crews: Seaspan Reliant, Seaspan Trader, Seaspan Raptor, Seaspan of Oak Bay



Clean Energy Research Centre



UBC: Jeremy Rochussen, Nicolas Jaeger, Mark Guan, Troy Hurren, Nishan Sapkota, Isaac Son, Jeff Yeo, Gibson Clark, Anand Kumar, Hamed Nikookar, Mhanna Mhanna; Steve Rogak, Amanda Giang, Bhushan Gopaluni



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Funding: ECCC (Climate Action Awareness Fund, Salish Sea Marine Emission Reduction Fund Programs)

NSERC (Alliance, CRD, Discovery Grant programs)

CFI Innovation Fund

Transport Canada Innovation Center

Seaspan Ferries, BC Ferries, FortisBC, Solaris



