

CAPTURING A MOVING TARGET: DECARBONIZING SHIPPING THROUGH INFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE



Judith van Leeuwen

In recent years, informational tools have been increasingly developed through collaboration between governments, business and civil organizations. This chapter investigates the current usage of and future potential of informational tools for governing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from shipping.

APPROACH:

The chapter begins by introducing the concept of informational governance and the role of shipping on climate change before combining the two concepts to analyze the IMO's current usage of informational tools to curb shipping emissions. The chapter then continues with an analysis of the emergence of voluntary informational tools in the shipping industry, questioning whether these are or have the potential to be transformative in nature.

MAIN FINDINGS:

- As a result of recent initiatives such as the EU's Monitoring Reporting and Verification Regulation for CO₂ emissions, more information concerning the energy efficiency of individual ships is growing.
- While readily available information is growing, the transformative power of (voluntary) informational tools is not fully displayed yet as the adoption and implementation of new environmental knowledge remains limited to a small group of frontrunners.
- The way data is gathered generates different results, with mandatory reporting from institutions such as the EU or IMO being more forceful and generating less owner-biased results. In most cases, having a third-party verify data will be necessary to ensure result reliability.