

# Environmental Impact of the Cruise Industry

## Regulations

- Cruise ships account for approximately 1% of shipping worldwide and 2% of global travel and tourism. As part of the international shipping community, cruise lines must adhere to all U.S. and international regulations.
- All cruise ships sailing in U.S. waters are inspected by the United States Coast Guard once each quarter to ensure they abide by environmental regulations, including obligations of the Clean Water Act.
- Cruise ships receive many other inspections annually from ports, countries they visit and independent agencies, including equipment checks, safe waste management and emissions verification.
- **Cruise ships must abide by stringent water, air, and fuel regulations**, including even stricter air emissions regulations when cruising within the Emission Control Areas of North America.

## Innovation and Commitment to Responsible Cruise Tourism

### Cruise Lines International Association's Current Commitments for the Industry:

- Reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2030.<sup>1</sup>
  - Plug into shore power where available. This limits ships from emitting exhaust while idling in port.
  - 85% of CLIA ships will be equipped for shore power plug-in by 2028.
  - 100% will be equipped by 2035.
  - Use liquified natural gas as fuel, with almost no sulfur emissions.
  - Incorporate fuel cells or batteries.
  - Use exhaust gas cleaning systems.
- Employ advanced wastewater treatment systems.
- Adopt special paint coatings on ships, improving fuel efficiency.
- Employ sophisticated recycling practices onboard, which already eliminate 60 percent more waste than the average person on shore each day.
- Eliminate single-use plastics onboard.
- Invest in research and development for new technologies and cleaner fuel: \$22 billion since 2018 and counting.

## In Maine

- The coast of Maine is included in the **North American Emissions Control Area**, meaning there are stricter controls to minimize airborne emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and fine particulate matter.
- Nearly all cruise ships visiting Maine are CLIA members, requiring them to adhere to even more **rigorous air emissions** requirements.
- Cruise ships are prohibited from discharging untreated gray water or a mixture of gray water and black water within three miles of shore. CLIA lines have also committed to never dumping untreated black water anywhere on the planet.
- Casco Bay is a **"no-discharge zone,"** barring all ships from discharging anything into the bay or the harbor.
- CruiseMaine aims to support a balance between happy cruise passengers and port communities, with **environmental sustainability at the forefront**
  - In 2023, CruiseMaine will partner with the city of Portland to commission a Central Maine Power feasibility study to assess transmission capacity for a shoreside power system that would enable cruise ships to plug into the electric grid while docked in port.

<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2008 levels Source: CLIA Environmental Sustainability Fact Sheet