



Adoption of Biofuels for Marine Shipping

Eric C. D. Tan, PhD, LCACP

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, CO

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Marine shipping

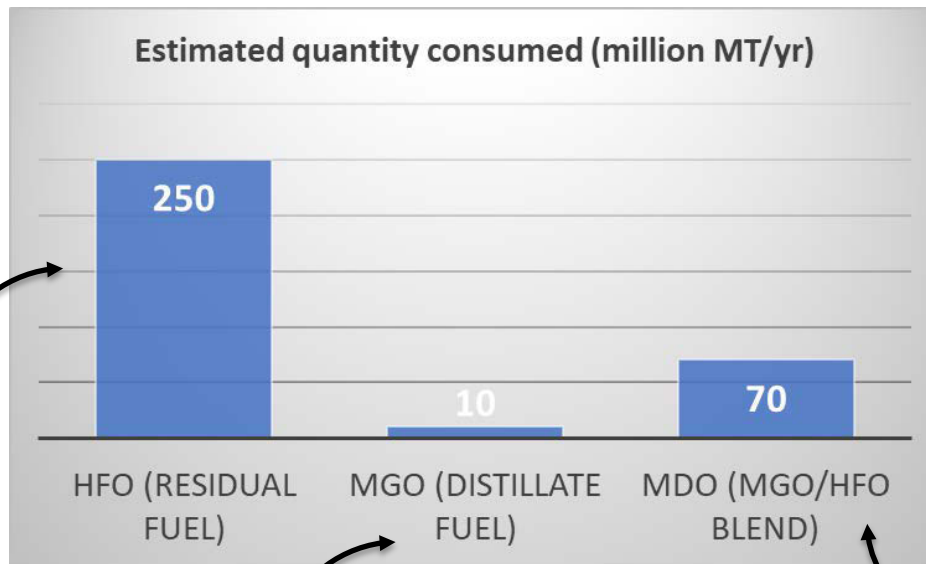
- One of the largest consumers of petroleum fuels, i.e., = one of the largest emitters of air pollutants
- Annual consumption: ~330 million metric tons (87 billion gal), 2x US cars + trucks
- > 90% world's shipped goods by marine vessels



Source: <https://www.traveller.com.au/cruising-on-cargo-ships-how-to-be-a-passenger-on-a-cargo-ship-gl9muk>

Current marine fuels

- Left over
- Account for ~76%
- Inexpensive
- Hi conc H₂O & impurities
- Required heating
- \$1.72/gal



- Lighter distillates
- Similar to diesel but > 100x sulfur
- \$2.62/gal

- MGO-HFO blend
- Predominantly MGO, thus ~\$2.62/gal

Challenges related to emission regulations

- ❖ Marine fuel – a significant contributor to air emissions of SO_x, NO_x, and PM.
- ❖ The IMO has issued new rules that steeply cut the global limit on the sulfur content of marine fuel **from 3.5% to 0.5%** starting January 1, 2020.
- ❖ CARB and other state agencies have established regulations limiting the sulfur content of fuel used in coastal regions (known as emission control areas or ECAs) to **0.1%**.
- ❖ Beyond 2025, IMO has established a framework for reducing CO₂ emissions per tonne-mile by 30%, and at least by 50% by 2050 compared with 2008 levels.



<http://mfame.guru/ship-emissions-monitoring-enforcement-human-health/>



The reduced S content has required ship operators to shift their engines from lower cost bunker C heavy fuel oil to much costlier distillate fuels, such as diesel.

Adoption of Biofuels for Marine Shipping

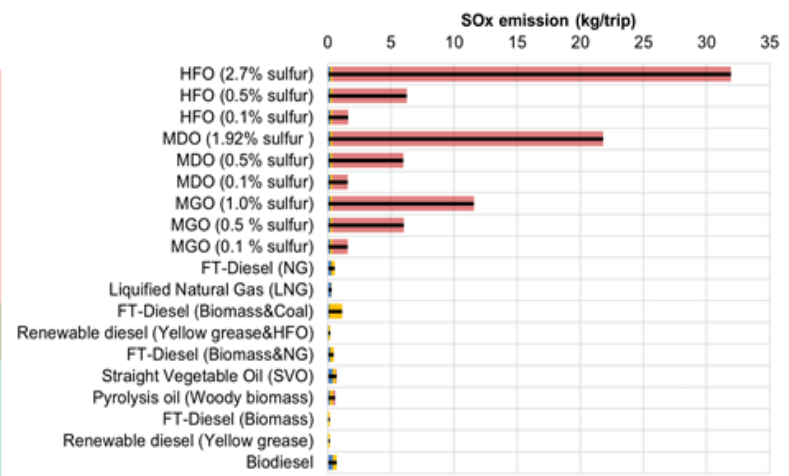
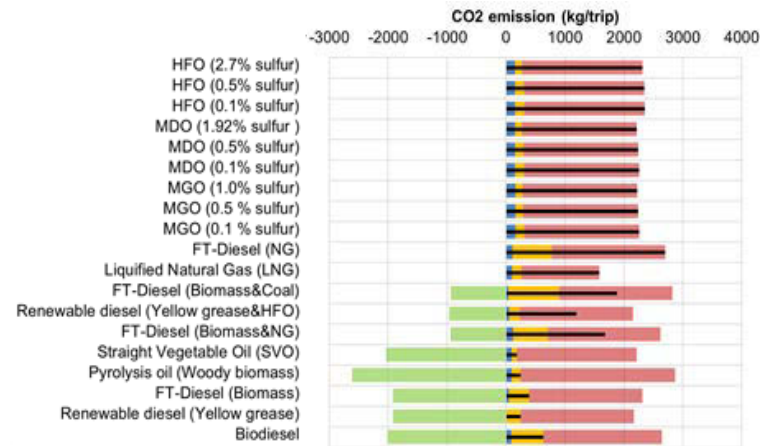
Why biofuels?

✓ Decarbonization

✓ Zero or low sulfur

Fossil Fuels
Biofuels

Fossil Fuels
Biofuels



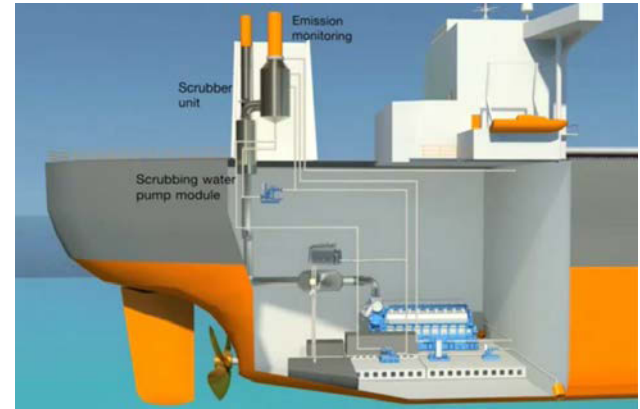
Ref: Tan, et al., "Biofuels for Marine Applications: Techno-Economic Analysis and Life-Cycle Assessment," Environmental Science & Technology, submitted.



Options to comply with low-S regulations

❖ Ship owners and operators have two foreseeable alternatives to consider:

1. Install **sulfur scrubber** on ships to reduce SOx emissions
2. Switch to **low-sulfur content fuels**
 - a) **Low-S HFO**
 - ✓ Low-S price increase,
 - ✓ High-S price decrease due to lower demand --> favor the adoption of sulfur scrubbers
 - b) **Low-S distillates (MGO, MDO)**
 - ✓ cost of MGO and MDO > HFO (2.62/gal vs. \$1.72/gal)
 - ✓ with limited supply of distillate fuels, increased MGO demand --> increased diesel fuel prices worldwide



<http://www.ikwangsung.com/dnv-gl-adds-scrubber-ready-class-notation/>

Options to comply with low-S regulations

❖ Ship owners and operators have two foreseeable alternatives to consider:

1. Install **sulfur scrubber** on ships to reduce SOx emissions

2. Switch to **low-sulfur content fuels**

c) **LNG – bridging fuel**

- ✓ added costs of LNG storage infrastructure
- ✓ low LNG prices help improve the economic challenges
- ✓ limited range due to the lower energy content
- ✓ currently limited infrastructure for LNG supply and distribution for use in marine vessels

d) **Marine biofuels**

- ✓ Biofuel candidates include:
- ✓ (1) oxygenated biofuels, e.g., straight vegetable oil (SVO), biodiesel, fast pyrolysis bio-oil, and hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL) biocrude.
- ✓ (2) hydrocarbon biofuels, e.g., renewable diesel, Fischer-Tropsch diesel, and fully upgraded (deoxygenated) bio-oil, and biocrude.
- ✓ Significant uncertainty in quality requirements, scalability, properties, and blending issues.

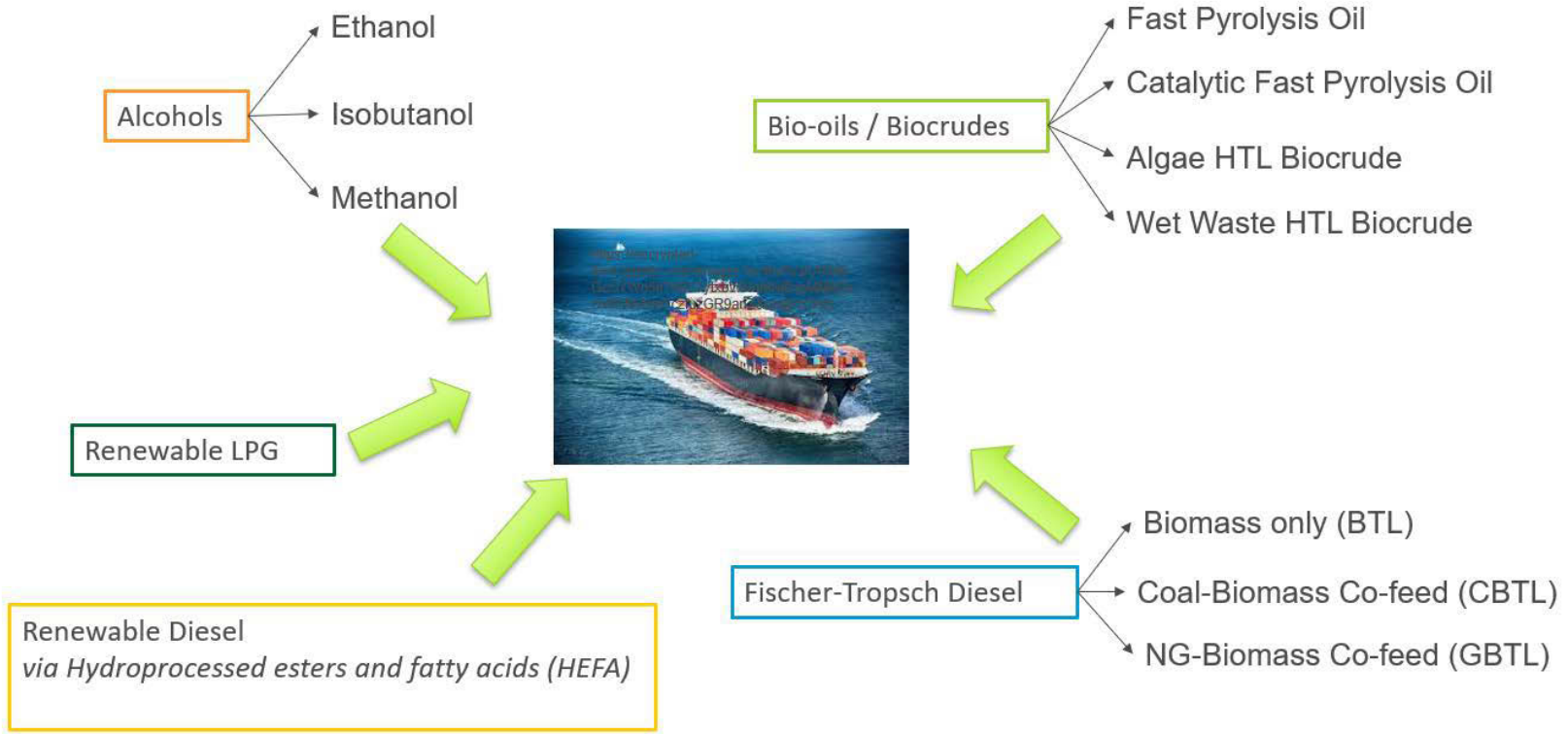


<https://info.ornl.gov/sites/publications/Files/pub120597.pdf>



<https://www.nrel.gov/bioenergy/biomass-deconstruction-pretreatment.html>

Biofuels being tested for marine shipping



Objectives, Scope, Approach

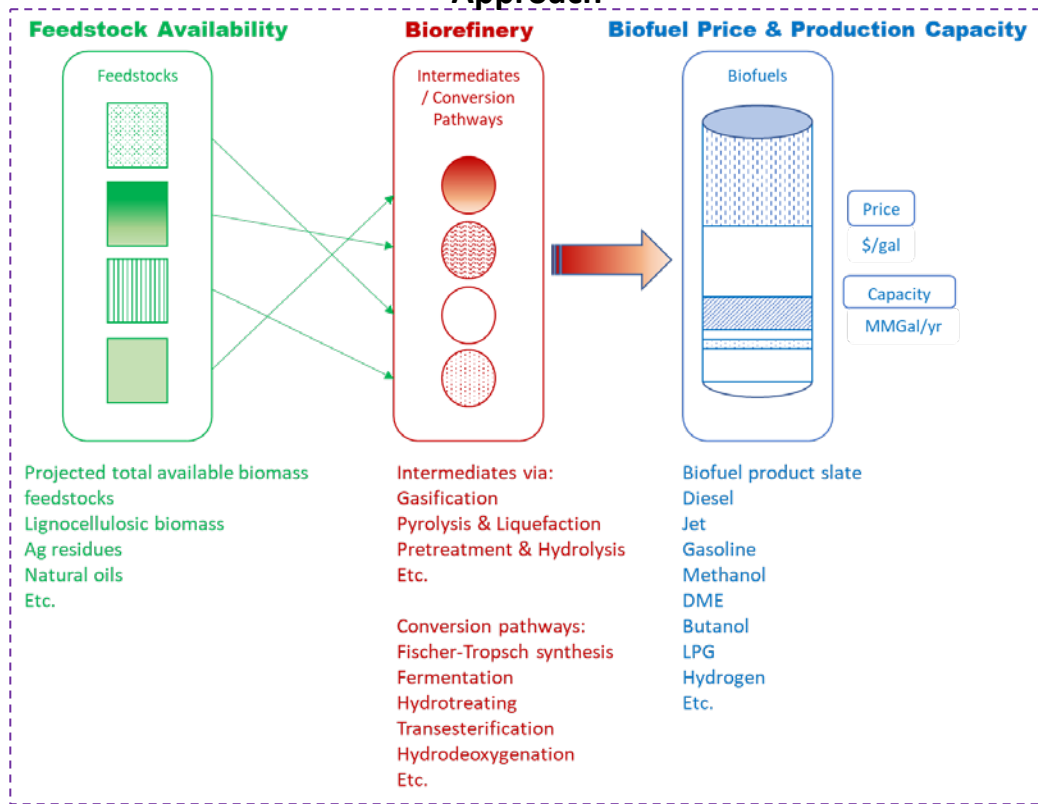
Objective

- ✓ Project the potential long-term price and annual production capacity of biofuel in the US

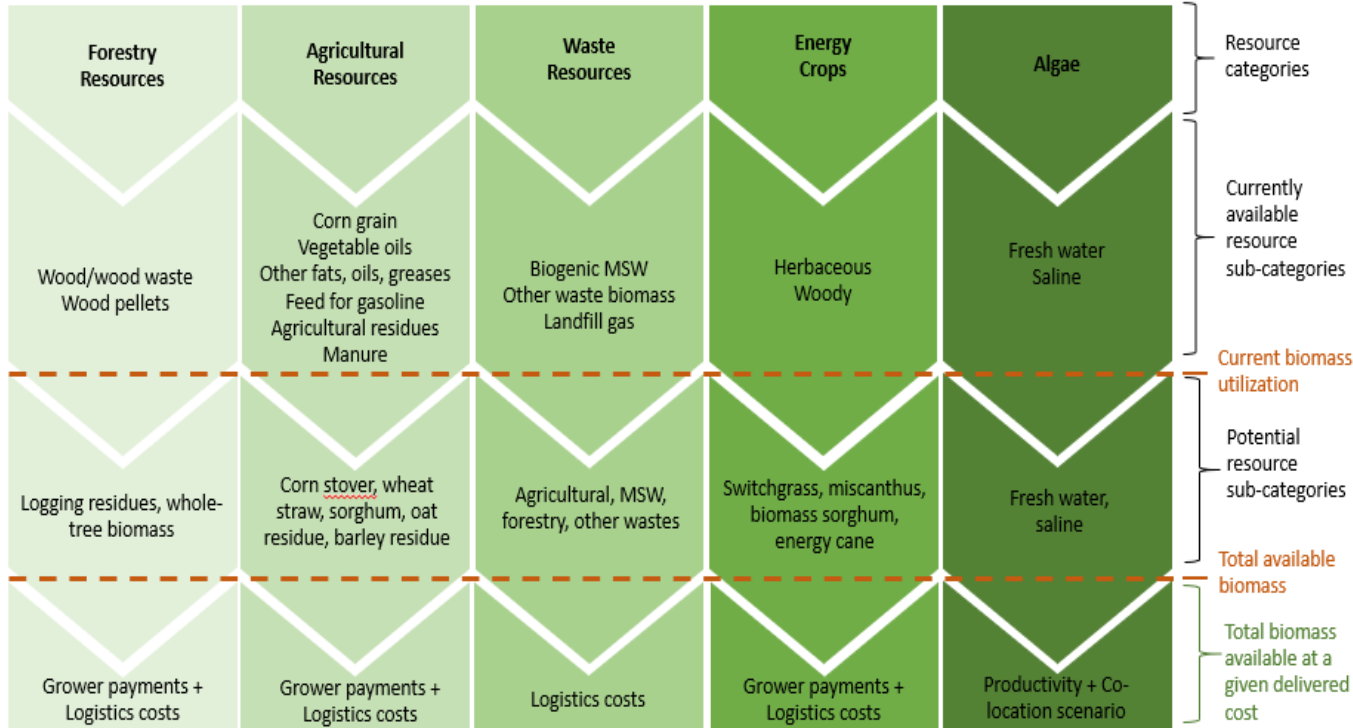
Scope

- ✓ US domestic resources
- ✓ Will not consider spatial distribution
- ✓ Long-term 2040
- ✓ Feedstock types and prices derived from BETO's 2016 Billion Ton study (BT16)
- ✓ Base case: assume all available feedstock go to marine biofuels; ignore the market force, i.e., feedstocks will not be used for other industries (e.g., power, biochemicals, and bioplastics)

Approach



Feedstock Analysis Summary



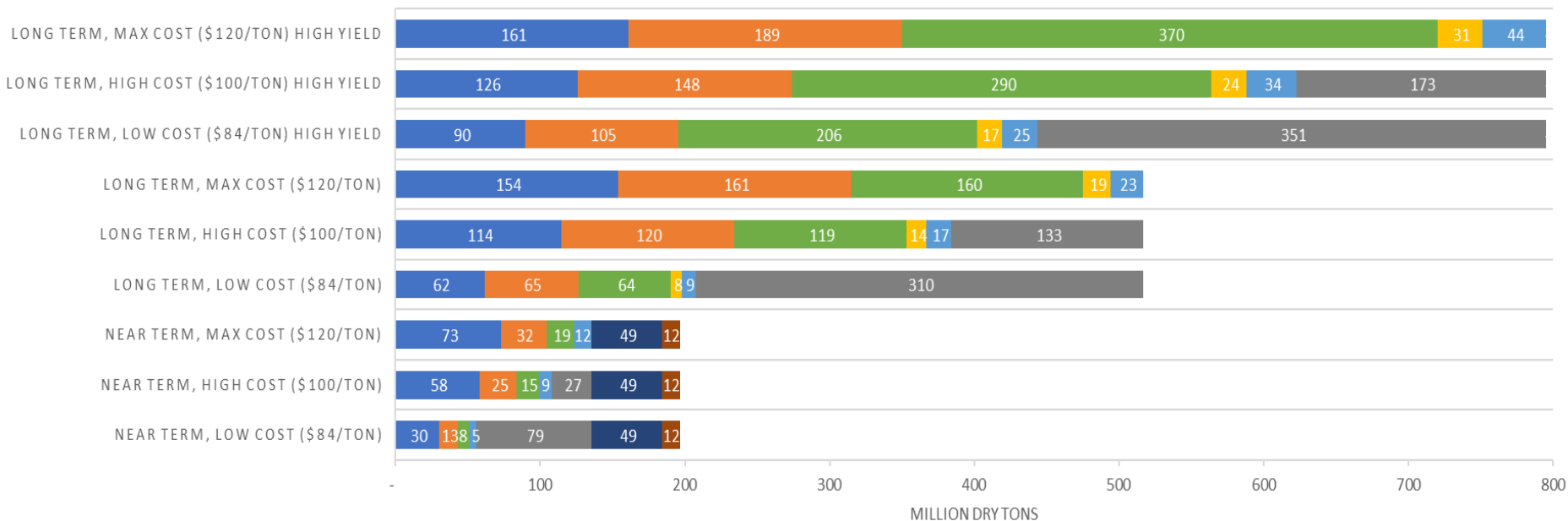
- A feedstock survey was performed to quantify the current and future biomass resource potential for (marine) biofuel utilization.
- The BETO's 2016 Billion-Ton Report (BT16) served as the key source of the data analyzed.
- Available feedstocks were identified by the five categories.

Potential Feedstock Availability

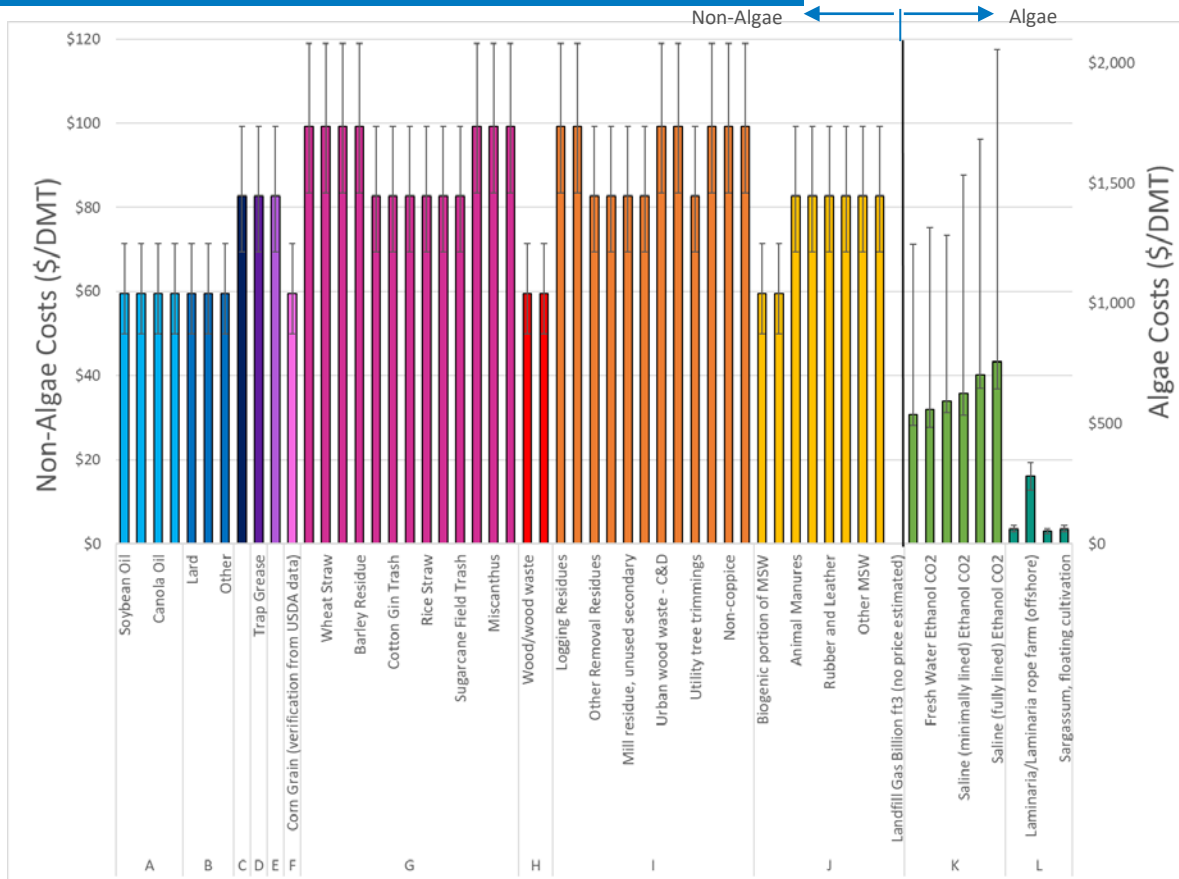
- The unused portions: unused due to cost limitations, unused due to over-contracting, and unused due to supply chain losses.

TOTAL POTENTIAL HERBACEOUS FEEDSTOCK

■ Corn Stover
 ■ Switchgrass
 ■ Miscanthus
 ■ Biomass Sorghum
 ■ Other Herb.
 ■ Unused [Cost]
 ■ Unused [Over-contract]
 ■ Unused [Loss]

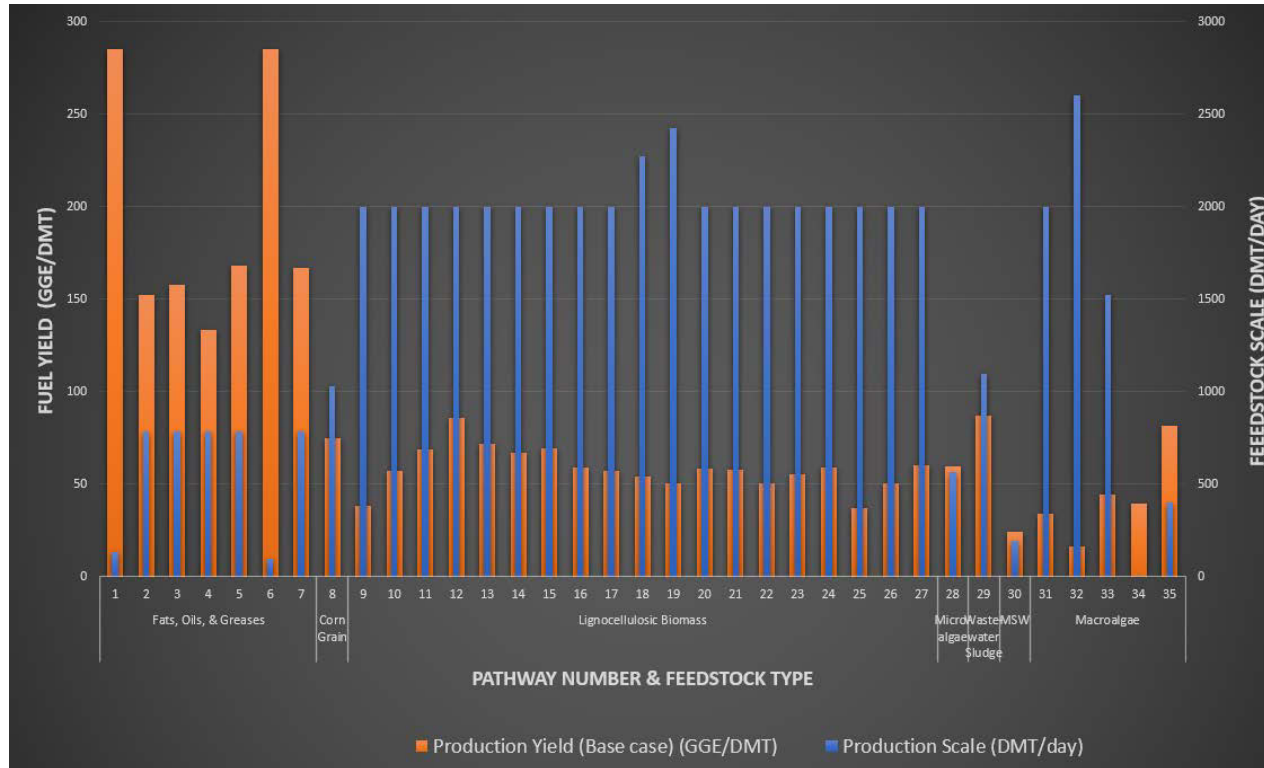


Feedstock costs (2040)

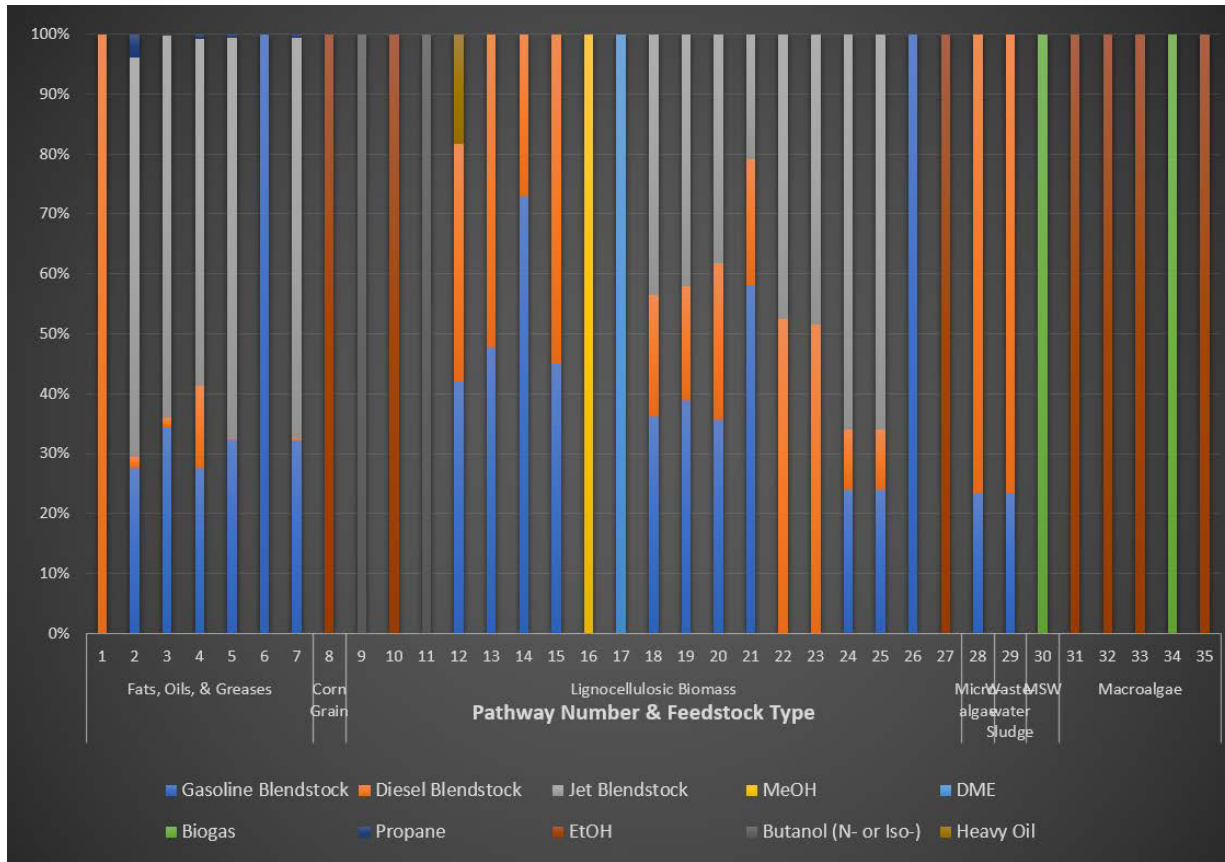


- A - Vegetable Oils
- B - Other Fats, Oils & Greases
- C - Biosolids
- D - Trap Grease
- E - Food Processing Waste
- F - Corn Grain
- G - Agricultural Residues
- H - Wood/Woodwaste
- I - Wood Pellets
- J - Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- K - Microalgae
- L - Macroalgae

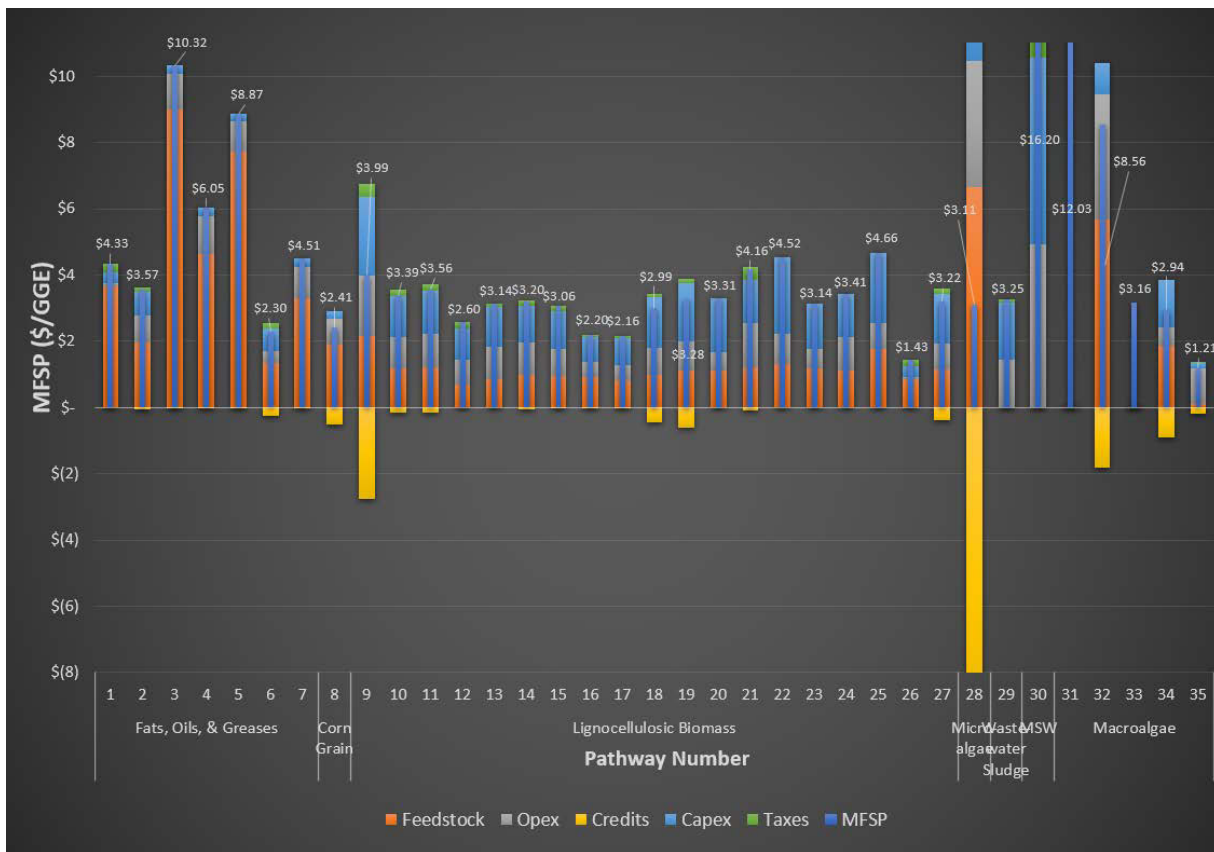
Selected biofuel production pathways



Fuel product distribution (wt%)

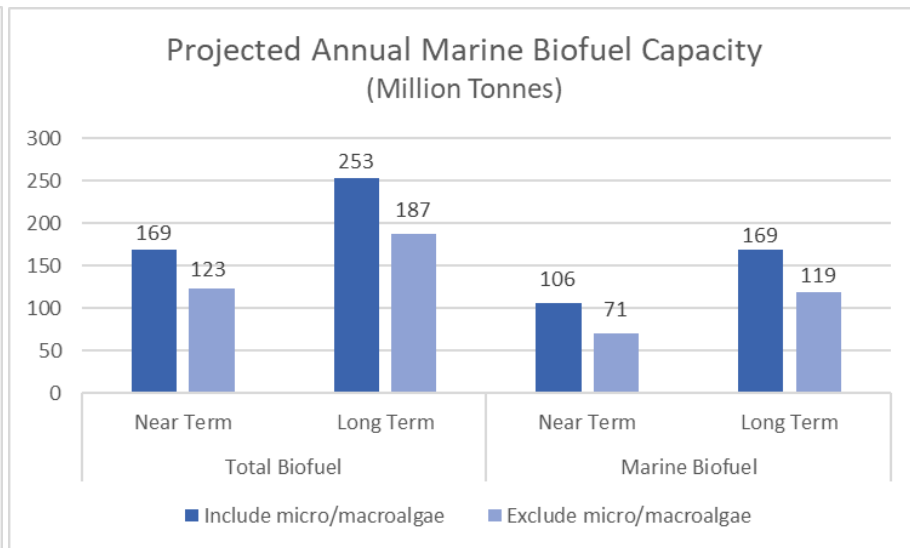
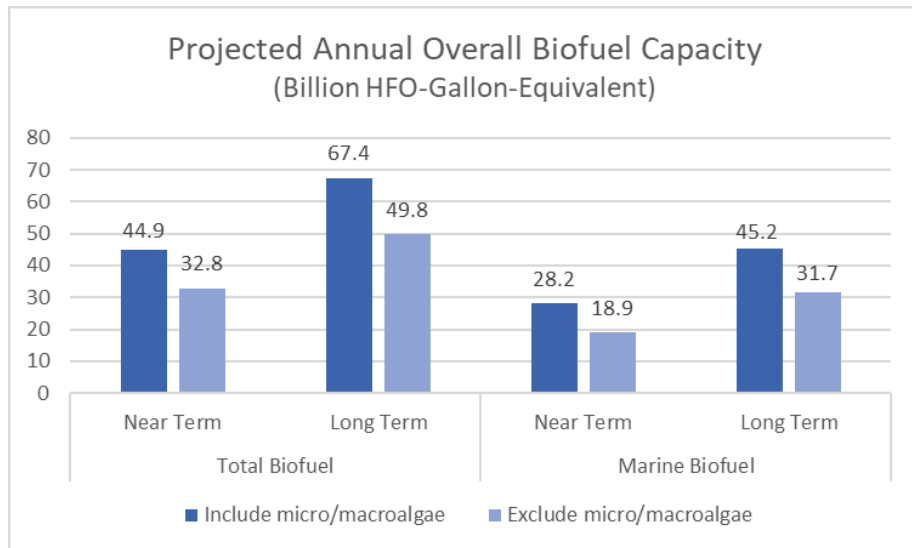


Minimum fuel selling prices



Projected Biofuel and Marine Biofuel Capacity

- Scenario 1 – Maximize the overall biofuel production capacity
- Scenario 2 – Maximize marine biofuel, i.e., jet/diesel range (C12+) blendstocks for MGO/MDO
- Based on projected median feedstock availability

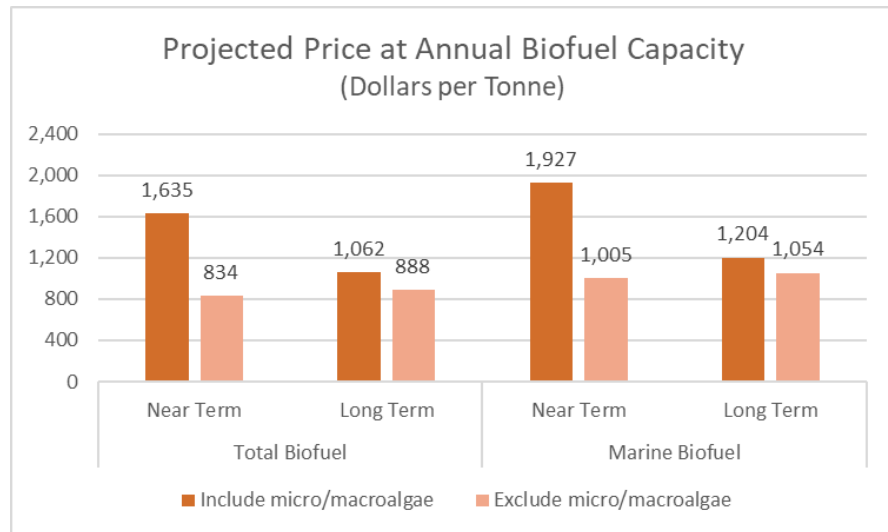
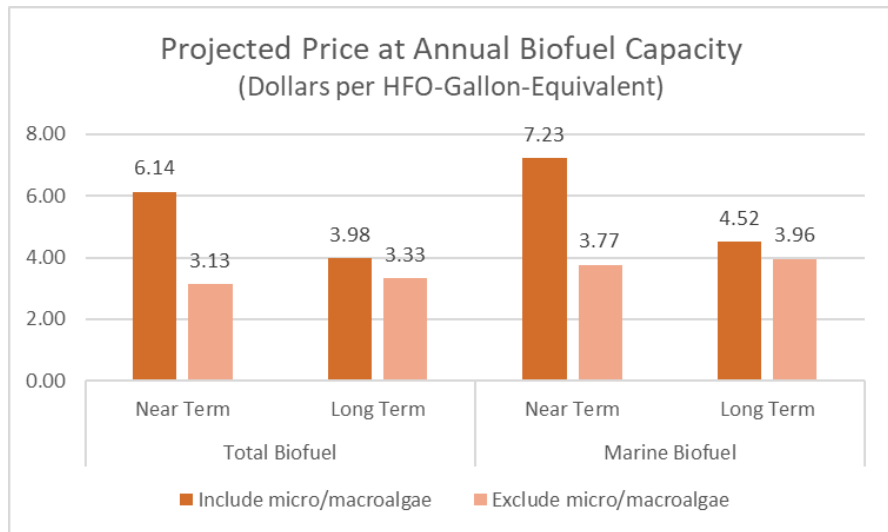


- 1 HFO-gallon-equivalent (HFOGE) = 140,353 Btu
- 1 metric ton = 267 HFOGE
- To put into perspective, annual global marine fuel consumption is estimated to be around 330 million metric tons (87 billion gallons).

		MM MT/yr	% of 330 MM MT/yr
Long-term	Total Biofuel	253	77%
	exlude algae	187	57%
	Marine Biofuel	169	51%
	exlude algae	119	36%

Projected Prices at Max Biofuel and Marine Biofuel Capacity

- Scenario 1 – Maximize the overall biofuel production capacity
- Scenario 2 – Maximize marine biofuel, i.e., jet/diesel range (C12+) blendstocks for MGO/MDO
- Based on projected feedstock median prices

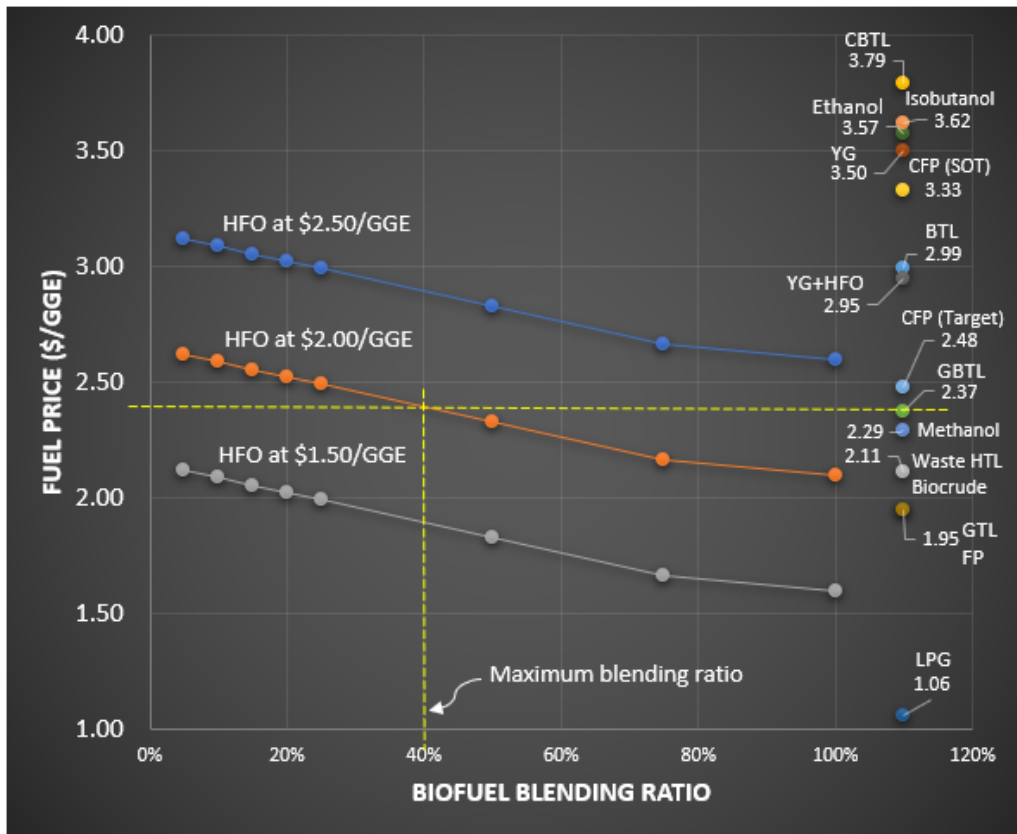


- 1 HFO-gallon-equivalent (HFOGE) = 140,353 Btu
- 1 metric ton = 267 HFOGE
- Pre-2020, 2019 average MGO \$700/MT

Marine Biofuel Market Penetration Potential

1 HFOGE = 1.2 GGE

Biofuels potentially feasible for marine shipping even at price > fossil fuels



Max. biofuel price based on assumptions:

- Cost difference between 1% and 3.5% S fuel at \$24.95/MT → \$30/MT premium



Biofuel blending ratio at 5%

- 300 million MT/yr (global consumption)
- 15 million MT/yr or ~4.5 billion gal/yr

Summary

- ❑ Biofuels play an important role in accelerating the energy transition and enabling the marine shipping industry to achieve decarbonization and low-S targets.
- ❑ This study projected preliminary potential long-term marine biofuel production capacity and cost.
- ❑ The study's approach combined literature review (journal articles and grey literature), economic and linear program model development, and meta-analysis of the literature. The analysis adopted a bottom-up approach: feedstock availability → biorefinery (conversion technology) → biofuel production capacity and price.
- ❑ The basic assumptions of the study were predominantly based on 1) feedstock availability and prices reported in the 2016 Billion-Ton Report; and 2) existing biomass-to-fuel conversion technology in the public domain, including leveraging the portfolio of conversion pathways developed under the US Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO).
- ❑ Future study will address other challenges and opportunities for biofuel adoption for marine shipping, including infrastructure and fuel compatibility/blending.

Acknowledgements

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Co-authors:

Kylee Harris

Stephen Tiff

Darlene Steward

Chris Kinchin



Speaker information:

Eric.Tan@nrel.gov

[\(303\) 384-7933](tel:(303)384-7933)

<http://www.nrel.gov/biomass>

Tom Thompson

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<https://maritime.dot.gov/>



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