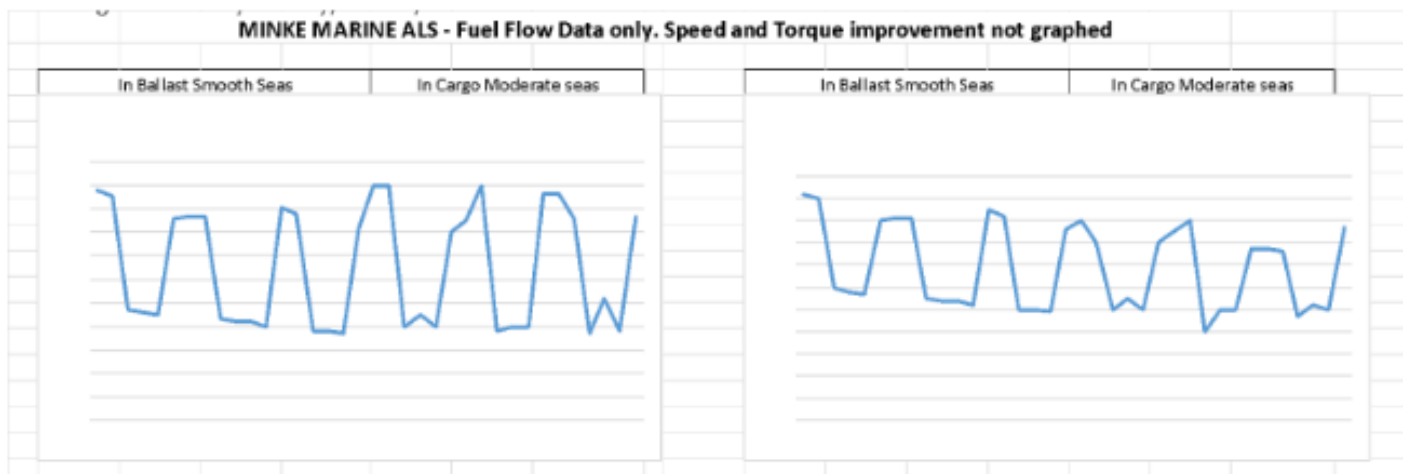


Minke, Saga trial cuts fuel with ALS



by **Arnel Murga** — March 25, 2026 in Propulsion and future fuels



US air lubrication innovator Minke Marine reports 7% fuel saving following pilot installation.

Minke Marine and Saga Shipholding are reporting measurable fuel savings from a pilot air lubrication system. The results show a growing interest in cost-effective retrofits to support [maritime decarbonisation](#).

Shipowners are continuing to test practical technologies that can deliver immediate emissions reductions without major capital investment. This is done to advance maritime decarbonisation. A recent pilot by Minke Marine on Saga Shipholding's general cargo vessel Saga Future points to the potential of air lubrication systems to meet that need.

Over a ten-month trial period, the system recorded a gross fuel saving of 7%, based on operational data collected under DNV's recommended verification practices. The vessel, a 55,000 dwt unit operating under slow steaming conditions, also saw reduced emissions and a reported increase in speed.

this would not have been possible. The data shows the Minke ALS can generate significant fuel savings for an investment of less than \$485,000. We believe this sets a new standard in ALS systems.”

Nils-Otto Bjorhovde, Head of Technical at Saga Shipholding Norway AS, said: “Saga has driven efficiency for years and air lubrication offers another step forward. What attracted us to the Minke system is its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. Saga is very happy to have taken what 18 months ago seemed quite a bold step. The fundamentals were there and now that it is operational we can see the system works well with the vessel and crew.”

The system was installed during scheduled dry docking with support from [Anglo-Eastern Ship Management](#) and Aitken Marine International. Its design uses low-profile outlets and existing hardware, allowing for faster installation and reduced complexity.

The appeal lies in balancing performance with cost. As regulatory pressure increases, solutions that deliver measurable fuel savings with limited disruption are gaining traction across fleets.

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