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MEPC.1/Circ.778/Rev.2  
6 April 2017

## **LIST OF SPECIAL AREAS, EMISSION CONTROL AREAS AND PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS**

### **Special Areas and Emission Control Areas (ECAs) under MARPOL**

1 Special Areas are defined under MARPOL Annexes I, IV and V as sea areas where, for recognized technical reasons in relation to their oceanographical and ecological conditions and to the particular character of their sea traffic, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of pollution of the sea from ships by oil, sewage or garbage, as applicable, is required.

2 Emission Control Areas (ECA) are defined under MARPOL Annex VI as areas where the adoption of special mandatory measures to regulate emissions from ships is required to prevent, reduce and control air pollution from NO<sub>x</sub> and/or SO<sub>x</sub> and/or particulate matter (PM) and their attendant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

3 Under MARPOL, Special Areas and ECAs are provided with a higher level of protection than other sea areas. While a number of such areas were designated when the 1973 MARPOL Convention and MARPOL Annex VI were first adopted in 1973 and 1997, respectively, additional Special Areas and ECAs have since been designated through the adoption of amendments to the relevant MARPOL Annexes.

4 A list of designated Special Areas and ECAs under MARPOL is set out in annex 1, also providing information on the adoption date of the respective amendments to relevant MARPOL Annexes, as appropriate; on the date of entry into force of such amendments; and on the date on which the more stringent measures took effect for Special Areas.

### **Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)**

5 The MEPC began its study of the issue of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in response to resolution 9 of the 1978 International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention concerning the protection of such sea areas. Recognizing the importance of the matter, the Committee consequently defined PSSAs as sea areas needing special protection through action by IMO because of their recognized ecological, socio-economic or scientific attributes which may be vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities.

6 IMO, through the MEPC, is the only international body responsible for assessing proposals for and designating PSSAs and adopting associated protective measures (APMs) applicable to international shipping.

7 So far, the MEPC has assessed and designated 14 PSSAs, including two extensions to existing PSSAs, in accordance with the *Revised guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas* (resolution A.982(24), as amended by resolution MEPC.267(68)). The key details of these PSSA are provided in annex 2, which also contains information on the proposing State(s), the corresponding APMs and the date of adoption of the MEPC resolutions designating the PSSAs.

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**ANNEX 1**

**LIST OF SPECIAL AREAS AND EMISSION CONTROL AREAS UNDER MARPOL**

| <b>Special Areas</b>  | <b>Amendments adopted to the MARPOL Annex</b> | <b>Entry into force of the amendments</b> | <b>More stringent measures in effect from</b>                         |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>MARPOL Annex I: Oil</b>  |   |   |   |
| Mediterranean Sea <sup>1</sup>  | -   | -   | 2 Oct 1983  |
| Baltic Sea <sup>1</sup>   | -   | -   | 2 Oct 1983  |
| Black Sea <sup>1</sup>  | -   | -   | 2 Oct 1983  |
| Red Sea <sup>1</sup>  | -   | -   | -   |
| Gulfs area <sup>1</sup>   | -   | -   | 1 Aug 2008<br>(MEPC.168(56))  |
| Gulf of Aden <sup>2</sup>   | 1 Dec 1987<br>(MEPC.29(25))                   | 1 Apr 1989                                | -   |
| Antarctic area  | 16 Nov 1990<br>(MEPC.42(30))                  | 17 Mar 1992                               | 17 Mar 1992   |
| North West European waters  | 25 Sep 1997<br>(MEPC.75(40))                  | 1 Feb 1999                                | 1 Aug 1999<br>(MEPC.77(41))   |
| Oman area of the Arabian Sea <sup>2</sup>                                 | 15 Oct 2004<br>(MEPC.117(52))                 | 1 Jan 2007                                | -   |
| Southern South African waters   | 13 Oct 2006<br>(MEPC.154(55))                 | 1 Mar 2008                                | 1 Aug 2008<br>(MEPC.167(56))  |
| <b>MARPOL Annex IV: Sewage</b>  |   |   |   |
| Baltic Sea  | 15 July 2011<br>(MEPC.200(62))                | 1 Jan 2013                                | 1 Jun 2019<br>1 Jun 2021<br>1 Jun 2023<br>(MEPC.275(69)) <sup>3</sup> |
| <b>MARPOL Annex V: Garbage</b>  |   |   |   |
| Mediterranean Sea   | -   | -   | 1 May 2009<br>(MEPC.172(57))  |
| Baltic Sea  | -   | -   | 1 Oct 1989<br>(MEPC.31(26))   |
| Black Sea <sup>2</sup>  | -   | -   | -   |
| Red Sea <sup>2</sup>  | -   | -   | -   |
| Gulfs area  | -   | -   | 1 Aug 2008<br>(MEPC.168(56))  |
| North Sea   | 17 Oct 1989<br>(MEPC.36(28))                  | 18 Feb 1991                               | 18 Feb 1991<br>(MEPC.37(28))  |
| Antarctic area  | 16 Nov 1990<br>(MEPC.42(30))                  | 17 Mar 1992                               | 17 Mar 1992   |
| Wider Caribbean region including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea | 4 July 1991<br>(MEPC.48(31))                  | 4 Apr 1993                                | 1 May 2011<br>(MEPC.191(60))  |

| <b>MARPOL Annex VI: Air pollution (Emission Control Areas)</b>                  |                               |             |             |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Baltic Sea <sup>4</sup><br>(SO <sub>x</sub> )                                   | -                             | -           | 19 May 2006 |
| North Sea<br>(SO <sub>x</sub> )   | 22 Jul 2005<br>(MEPC.132(53)) | 22 Nov 2006 | 22 Nov 2007 |
| North America<br>(SO <sub>x</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> and<br>PM)                  | 26 Mar 2010<br>(MEPC.190(60)) | 1 Aug 2011  | 1 Aug 2012  |
| United States<br>Caribbean Sea<br>(SO <sub>x</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> and<br>PM) | 15 Jul 2011<br>(MEPC.202(62)) | 1 Jan 2013  | 1 Jan 2014  |

- <sup>1</sup> Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Red Sea and the Gulfs area were designated as Special Areas under MARPOL Annexes I and V when the 1973 MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973. MARPOL Annexes I and V entered into force on 2 October 1983 and 31 December 1988, respectively.
- <sup>2</sup> The Special Area requirements for these areas have not yet taken effect because of lack of notifications from MARPOL Parties whose coastlines border the relevant Special Areas regarding the existence of adequate reception facilities (MARPOL Annex I, regulation 38.6, and MARPOL Annex V, regulation 8.2).
- <sup>3</sup> In accordance with resolution MEPC.275(69), the discharge requirements for Special Areas in regulation 11.3 of MARPOL Annex IV for the Baltic Sea Special Area shall take effect:
- .1 on 1 June 2019, for new passenger ships;
  - .2 on 1 June 2021, for existing passenger ships other than those specified in .3; and
  - .3 on 1 June 2023, for existing passenger ships en route directly to or from a port located outside the special area and to or from a port located east of longitude 28°10' E within the special area that do not make any other port calls within the special area.
- <sup>4</sup> The Baltic Sea was designated as an Emission Control Area for SO<sub>x</sub> when MARPOL Annex VI, which entered into force on 19 May 2005, was first adopted on 26 September 1997.

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**ANNEX 2**

**LIST OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS**

| No. | PSSA                                       | Proposing State(s)  | Associated Protective Measures*  | MEPC resolution                |
|-----|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Great Barrier Reef Region                  | Australia   | IMO-recommended Australian system of pilotage; mandatory ship reporting system   | 16 Nov 1990 (MEPC.44(30))      |
|     | Torres Strait extension                    | Australia, Papua New Guinea   | IMO-recommended Australian system of pilotage; two-way route   | 22 July 2005 (MEPC.133(53))    |
|     | South West Coral Sea extension             | Australia   | Area to be avoided; traffic separation systems   | May 2015 (MEPC.268(68))        |
| 2   | Archipelago of Sabana-Camaguey             | Cuba  | Area to be avoided   | 25 Sep 1997 (MEPC.74(40))      |
| 3   | Sea area around Malpelo Island             | Colombia  | Area to be avoided   | 8 Mar 2002 (MEPC.97(47))       |
| 4   | Sea area around the Florida Keys           | United States   | Areas to be avoided; mandatory no anchoring areas  | 8 Mar 2002 (MEPC.98(47))       |
| 5   | Wadden Sea                                 | Netherlands, Denmark, Germany   | Mandatory deep water route   | 11 Oct 2002 (MEPC.101(48))     |
| 6   | Paracas National Reserve                   | Peru  | Area to be avoided   | 18 July 2003 (MEPC.106(49))    |
| 7   | Western European Waters                    | Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom             | Mandatory ship reporting system  | 15 Oct 2004 (MEPC.121(52))     |
| 8   | Canary Islands                             | Spain   | Areas to be avoided; traffic separation systems; recommended routes; mandatory ship reporting system   | 22 Mar 2004 (MEPC.134(53))     |
| 9   | Galapagos Archipelago                      | Ecuador   | Area to be avoided; mandatory ship reporting system; recommended tracks  | 22 Mar 2004 (MEPC.135(53))     |
| 10  | Baltic Sea Area                            | Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden | Traffic separation schemes; deepwater route; Areas to be avoided; mandatory ship reporting system; MARPOL Special Area; MARPOL SO <sub>x</sub> ECA | 22 Mar 2004 (MEPC.136(53))     |
| 11  | Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | United States   | Areas to be avoided; recommended/mandatory ship reporting system   | 4 April 2008 (MEPC.171(57))    |
| 12  | Strait of Bonifacio                        | France, Italy   | Recommendation on navigation   | 15 July 2011 (MEPC.204(62))    |
| 13  | Saba Bank (Caribbean Island of Saba)       | Netherlands   | Area to be avoided; Mandatory no anchoring area  | 5 Oct 2012 (MEPC.226(64))      |
| 14  | Jomard Entrance                            | Papua New Guinea  | Routeing system (four two-way routes and a precautionary area)   | 28 October 2016 (MEPC.283(70)) |

\* This table only lists those APMs that have been specifically identified as APMs *per se*. There may be other IMO-adopted measures in the designated PSSA. In some cases, national measures may also be relevant.