

Commonwealth of Dominica



Office of the Maritime Administrator

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS, CREW, FLAG STATE INSPECTORS, SURVEYORS AND RO's

SUBJECT: LIST OF SPECIAL AREAS UNDER MARPOL AND PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS

REFERENCE: (a) MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI (Emission Control Areas);

(b) MEPC.1/Circ.778/Rev.1

APPLICABILITY: This Marine Safety Circular is applicable to all Dominica flagged vessels.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all concerned the Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas that have been designated by the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

BACKGROUND:

Special Areas under MARPOL

The MARPOL Convention defines certain sea areas as "**Special Areas**" in which, for technical reasons relating to their oceanographical and ecological condition and to their sea traffic, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required. Under the Convention, these Special Areas are provided with a higher level of protection than other sea areas. They are designated by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) by amendments to the relevant MARPOL Annexes. There are such areas under MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV and V. Under MARPOL Annex VI, such areas are called Emission Control Areas.

Particularly Sensitive Seas Areas

The MEPC began its study of the issue of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in response to resolution 9 of the 1978 International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention concerning the protection of such sea areas.

The MEPC, recognizing the importance of this issue, consequently defined PSSA as a sea area that needs special protection through action by IMO because of its significance for recognized ecological, socio-economic, or scientific attributes, where such attributes may be vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities.

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.

Since 1990, the MEPC has assessed and designated 14 PSSAs in accordance with the PSSA Guidelines adopted by the IMO Assembly. The key details of every PSSA are provided in annex 2 to this Marine Safety Circular. It may be noted that the annex also contains information on the proposing State(s), the APMs and the date of the MEPC resolutions designating the PSSAs.

REQUIREMENTS:

General

Shipowners, operators, Masters and crew should review the information contained in this Circular and consider the applicable requirements to their individual ships in regards to the MARPOL Convention and related Annexes and regulations.

Any questions can be directed to:

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Annex 1

LIST OF SPECIAL AREAS UNDER MARPOL

Special Areas	Amendments adopted to the MARPOL Annex	Entry into force of the amendments	More stringent measures in effect from
MARPOL Annex I: Oil			
Mediterranean Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Baltic Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Black Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	2 Oct 1983
Red Sea	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	*
"Gulfs" area	2 Nov 1973	2 Oct 1983	1 Aug 2008 (Resolution MEPC.168(56))
Gulf of Aden	1 Dec 1987 (Resolution MEPC.29(25))	1 Apr 1989	*
Antarctic area	16 Nov 1990 (Resolution MEPC.42(30))	17 Mar 1992	17 Mar 1992
North West European waters	25 Sept 1997 (Resolution MEPC.75(40))	1 Feb 1999	1 Aug 1999 (Resolution MEPC.77(41))
Oman area of the Arabian Sea	15 Oct 2004 (Resolution MEPC.117(52))	1 Jan 2007	*
Southern South African waters	13 Oct 2006 (Resolution MEPC.154(55))	1 Mar 2008	1 Aug 2008 (Resolution MEPC.167(56))
MARPOL Annex II: Noxious Liquid Substances			
Antarctic area	30 Oct 1992 (Resolution MEPC.57(33))	1 Jul 1994	1 Jul 1994
MARPOL Annex IV: Sewage			
Baltic Sea	15 Jul 2011 (Resolution MEPC.200(62))	1 Jan 2013	**
MARPOL Annex V: Garbage			
Mediterranean Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 May 2009

			(Resolution MEPC.172(57))
Baltic Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 Oct 1989 (Resolution MEPC.31(26))
Black Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	*
Red Sea	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	*
“Gulfs” area	2 Nov 1973	31 Dec 1988	1 Aug 2008 (Resolution MEPC.168(56))
North Sea	17 Oct 1989 (Resolution MEPC.36(28))	18 Feb 1991	18 Feb 1991 (Resolution MEPC.37(28))
Antarctic area (South of latitude 60 degrees south)	16 Nov 1990 (Resolution MEPC.42(30))	17 Mar 1992	17 Mar 1992
Wider Caribbean region including Mexico and the Caribbean Sea	4 Jul 1991 (Resolution MEPC.48(31))	4 Apr 1993	1 May 2011 (Resolution MEPC.191(60))
MARPOL Annex VI: Air Pollution (Emission Control Areas)			
Baltic Sea (SOx)	26 Sept 1997	19 May 2005	22 Nov 2007
North American (SOx and NOx and PM)	26 Mar 2010 (Resolution MEPC.190(60))	1 Aug 2011	1 Aug 2012
United States Caribbean Sea (SOx, NOx and PM)	15 Jul 2011 (Resolution MEPC.202(62))	1 Jan 2013	1 Jan 2014

Annex 2

LIST OF PSSAs DESIGNATED BY MEPC

PSSA	Proposing State(s)	Associated Protective Measures¹	MEPC resolution
Great Barrier Reef	Australia	IMO-recommended Australian system of pilotage; mandatory ship reporting system	September 1990 (Resolution MEPC.44(30))
Archipelago of Sabana-Camaguey	Cuba	Area to be avoided	September 1997 (Resolution MEPC.74(40))
Sea Area Around Malepelo Island	Colombia	Area to be avoided	March 2002 (Resolution MEPC.97(47))
Marine Area Around the Florida Keys	United States	Areas to be avoided; mandatory no anchoring areas	March 2002 (Resolution MEPC.98(47))
Wadden Sea	Netherlands, Denmark, Germany	Mandatory deep water route	October 2002 (Resolution MEPC.101(48))
Paracas National Reserve	Peru	Area to be avoided	July 2003 (Resolution MEPC.106(49))
Western European Waters	Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom	Mandatory ship reporting system	October 2004 (Resolution MEPC.121(52))
Torres Strait as an extension to GBR PSSA	Australia and Papua New Guinea	IMO-recommended Australian system of pilotage; two-way route	July 2003 (Resolution MEPC.133(53))
Canary Islands	Spain	Areas to be avoided; traffic separation systems; recommended routes; mandatory ship reporting system	March 2004 (Resolution MEPC.134(53))
Galapagos Archipelago	Ecuador	Area to be avoided; mandatory ship reporting system; recommended tracks	March 2004 (Resolution MEPC.135(53))
Baltic Sea Area	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany,	Traffic separation schemes, deepwater	March 2004 (Resolution

	Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden	route, areas to be avoided, mandatory ship reporting system, MARPOL, Special Area, MARPOL SOx Emission Control Area	MEPC.136(53))
Paphanaumo-kuakea Marine National Monument (North-western Hawaiian Islands)	United States	Areas to be avoided; recommended/mandatory ship reporting system	March 2007 (Resolution MEPC.171(57))
Strait of Bonifacio	France and Italy	Recommended on Navigation	July 2011 (Resolution MEPC.204(62))
Saba Bank (Caribbean Island of Saba)	The Netherlands	Area to be avoided; Mandatory no anchoring area	October 2012 (Resolution MEPC.226(64))