

SUMMARY

This quarterly report is the 58th in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights include:

1. The 22nd Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by the Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention (LC)) was held at International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London from September 18-22, 2000. The LC secretariat reported that 78 governments have ratified or acceded to the LC and that 11 states have ratified the 1996 LC Protocol, 9 of which are also contracting parties to the LC. Among issues addressed were: (a) compliance issues; (b) administrative arrangements for the LC and LC Protocol; (c) the report of the LC Scientific Group; (d) interpretation of the term “industrial waste”; (e) management of radioactive wastes; and (f) monitoring for the purposes of the LC. (Item 1-A)
2. The 45th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 45) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from October 2-6, 2000. Among issues addressed by MEPC 45 were: (a) harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water; (b) implementation of the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC Convention) and the OPRC-Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol; (c) harmful effects of the use of anti-fouling paints for ships; (d) identification and protection of Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas; (e) prevention of air pollution from ships; and (f) amendments of the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978, as amended, (MARPOL 73/78). (Item 1-B)
3. The 82nd session of the IMO Legal Committee was held at IMO Headquarters in London from October 16-20, 2000. Issues addressed included: (a) compensation for pollution from ships’ bunkers; (b) provision of financial security; (c) draft Convention on Wreck Removal; and (d) monitoring implementation of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea. (Item 1-C)
4. On December 4, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13178, *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve*. The purpose of the Order is to ensure the comprehensive, strong, and lasting protection of the coral reef

5. On November 14, 2000, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, issued a final Ergonomics Program standard to address the significant risk of employee exposure to ergonomic risk factors in jobs in general industry workplaces. Exposure to ergonomic risk factors on the job leads to musculoskeletal disorders of the upper extremities, back, and lower extremities. The standard contains an “action trigger,” which identifies jobs with risk factors of sufficient magnitude, duration, or intensity to warrant further examination by the employer. (Item 3-F)
6. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a checklist and workbook for evaluating facility compliance with the federal environmental regulations that are applicable to the water transportation industry. The term “facility” refers to, but is not limited to, the shipping port, shipping sites, terminals, ships, towboats, and barges. Following an introduction, the checklist and workbook address the following topics: (a) waste management; (b) wastewater and storm water management; (c) dockside maintenance and repair activities; (d) storage tanks and spill prevention, control, and countermeasures; (e) planning and accidental release reporting; and (f) vessels and underway activities. (Item 4-A)
7. At its 42nd session, the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) considered matters related to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships and instructed the IMO secretariat to initiate an IMO study of this issue. The objective of the study was to undertake an examination of GHG emission reduction possibilities through different technical, operational, and market-based approaches. The final report to the IMO, *Study of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships*, was submitted to the 45th MEPC session for consideration. (Item 4-C)

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