

SUMMARY

This quarterly report is the 60th in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights include:

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) held an international conference in London from March 19-23, 2001, that adopted the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage. The Bunkers Convention is the final element of the comprehensive scheme that the IMO has been pursuing for over 30 years to ensure that all those likely to be affected by marine pollution damage from ships will receive prompt and adequate compensation. The other elements of this international liability and compensation regime are: (a) the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, as amended; (b) the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, as amended; and (c) the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea. (Item 1-B)
2. The 46th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 46) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from April 23-27, 2001. Among its many actions, the MEPC: (a) adopted amendments to regulation 13G of Annex I of the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978, as amended, (MARPOL 73/78), in order to phase out single hull tankers; (b) continued progress in the development of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems, in preparation for the diplomatic conference scheduled for October 1-5, 2001; (c) continued development of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, with the formation of an intersessional correspondence group to continue development of a ballast water treatment standard; (d) approved in principle the U.S. proposal to designate the marine area around the Florida Keys as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), and agreed that the proposal should be used as a model for countries in submitting future proposals for PSSA designation; and (e) decided to continue the work of the correspondence group on ship recycling in order to look further into the IMO's perceived role in ship recycling, with the possibility of establishing a working group at MEPC 47 to discuss the issue of ship recycling in depth. (Item 1-C)
3. The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, a federally chartered body staffed by the Great Lakes Commission, has released its strategy to advance aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control efforts through ballast water management. The comprehensive policy statement features 41 recommendations that will guide the development of criteria for ballast water management practices and treatment technologies, ensure consistency among laws and programs in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin jurisdictions, and promote the development of technology options and identification of research needs. (Item 4-D)
4. President Bush has released the Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group (NEPDG) titled *Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Sound Energy for America's Future*. The report states that a fundamental imbalance between supply and demand defines

the nation's energy crisis. If energy production increases at the same rate as during the last decade, the nation's projected energy needs will far outstrip expected levels of production. This imbalance, if allowed to continue, will inevitably undermine the nation's economy, standard of living, and national security. The components of the National Energy Policy proposed by the NEPDG follow three basic principles: (a) the Policy is a long-term, comprehensive strategy; (b) the Policy will advance new, environmentally friendly technologies to increase energy supplies and encourage cleaner, more efficient energy use; and (c) the Policy seeks to raise the living standards of the American people, recognizing that to do so the nation must fully integrate its energy, environmental, and economic policies. (Item 4-E)

5. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a report titled *A National Dialogue about America's Water Resources Challenges for the 21st Century: National Report on Identified Water Resources Challenges and Water Challenge Areas*. The report identifies emerging water resources challenges concerning the Marine Transportation System (MTS), restoring and protecting the environment, managing watersheds holistically, floodplain and coastal zone management, responding to disasters, community water infrastructure, regulating dredge and fill activities, recreation, project processes, and institutional changes. (Item 4-F)

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