

SUMMARY

This quarterly report is the 72nd in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights are:

1. The 51st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 51) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from March 29 – April 2, 2004. Significant actions taken at MEPC 51 include: (a) adoption of the revised Annex IV (regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships) of the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978, as amended, (MARPOL 73/78 or MARPOL Convention); (b) approval of the prioritized schedule for the development of guidelines in preparation for the implementation of the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments; (c) noted that the international rules on the prevention of air pollution from ships (MARPOL Annex VI) could enter into force before the end of 2005; (d) approved proposed amendments to the International Bulk Chemical (IBC) Code; (e) approved in principle the designation of three Particular Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs); (f) approved amendments to MARPOL Annex I (prevention of pollution by oil) to require double-hull protection of pump rooms and access to shore-based computer programs; and (g) considered further work on ship recycling following adoption by the IMO Assembly, in November 2003, of a resolution concerning guidelines on ship recycling. (Item 1-B)
2. The 88th session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG 88) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from April 19-23, 2004. The Committee focused its work primarily on the revised U.S. text to amend the 1988 International Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention). These amendments are designed to facilitate, strengthen, and expand international cooperation and coordination in combating criminal activity, particularly terrorist acts against or involving ships. (Item 1-C)
3. The 78th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 78) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from May 12-21, 2004. Significant actions taken at MSC 78 include: (a) adoption of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention) concerning such issues as means of access to cargo areas and emergency training drills; (b) progress in addressing many of the issues related to long-range identification and tracking of ships; (c) agreement on a number of clarifications to assist countries in the implementation of maritime security; (d) adoption of amendments to the SOLAS Convention and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention) to clarify the treatment of persons rescued at sea; (e) approval of a number of U.S. proposals to improve the safety of large passenger ships; (f) approval of amendments to the SOLAS Convention to improve bulk carrier safety; (g) approval of amendments to the SOLAS Convention to require simplified data recorders on existing cargo ships; and (h) consideration of the reports of nine subcommittees. (Item 1-D)
4. The U.S. National Dredging Team (NDT) recently issued its new action plan titled *Dredged Material Management: Action Agenda for the Next Decade*, which is based on an NDT-

sponsored workshop in Jacksonville, Florida, in January 2001. The new action plan focuses on the following themes: beneficial use of dredged material, sediment management, emerging issues, and strengthening Regional Dredging Teams (RDTs). (Item 4-A)

5. The International Labor Organization (ILO) and the IMO have approved the ILO/IMO Code of Practice on Security in Ports. The practical recommendations contained in this Code have been designed to provide guidance to all those responsible for addressing the issue of security in ports. This Code will assist in the identification of the roles and responsibilities of governments, employers, and workers. It also provides a proactive approach to security in ports and follows, where practicable, the practice and principles identified in Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention) and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. (Item 4-E)

For further information, contact Mr. Daniel W. Leubecker, Office of Environmental Activities (MAR-820), Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (telephone: (202) 366-1939, facsimile: (202) 366-6988, electronic mail: daniel.leubecker@marad.dot.gov. This report, as well as a number of previously issued quarterly reports, may be found on three Internet Web Sites as follows: <http://www.marad.dot.gov> (under publications); <http://www.marad.dot.gov/nmrec> (under environmental information); and <http://www.socp.org> (highlights and under publications).