

SUMMARY

This quarterly report is the 69th in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights include:

1. The 49th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 49) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from July 14-18, 2003. Among its significant actions, the MEPC: (a) conducted a comprehensive review of the draft International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, and agreed to proceed with a diplomatic conference in February 2004 for resolution of the remaining outstanding issues and for adoption of the treaty; (b) approved a draft Assembly resolution setting out a process to develop a voluntary IMO greenhouse gas indexing system to be applied to ships; (c) approved draft guidelines for ship recycling and a related draft Assembly resolution for adoption of the guidelines, as well as recommended future work items; (d) considered proposals to accelerate the phase out of single-hull tankers and to ban the carriage of heavy grades of oil in single-hull tankers; (e) considered and acted upon two initial proposals for designation of areas as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) and agreed to one area for final designation as a PSSA; (f) approved a draft Assembly resolution on human element vision, principles, and goals for the IMO; (g) adopted resolutions providing guidelines for sampling of anti-fouling systems on ships and for port state control inspections of anti-fouling systems on ships; (h) adopted revised guidelines and specifications regarding pollution control equipment for machinery space bilges of ships and regarding oil discharge monitoring and control systems for oil tankers; and (i) approved the draft revised survey guidelines under the Harmonized System for Survey and Certification. (Item 1-B)
2. During May 2003, the Bush Administration's legislation to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was introduced into the U.S. Congress. This bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA), would provide over \$201 billion in funding for highway and safety programs and nearly \$46 billion in funding for public transportation programs from fiscal year 2004 through fiscal year 2009. The U.S. transportation systems face significant challenges in the areas of safety, security, congestion, intermodal connectivity, and timely project delivery. Building upon the principles, values, and achievements of TEA-21, this proposal addresses these challenges and creates a safer, simpler, and smarter federal program. (Item 2-A)
3. On July 1, 2003, the Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, published a series of six temporary interim rules to promulgate maritime security requirements mandated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The six interim rules address: (a) general provisions and national maritime transportation security; (b) area maritime security; (c) vessel security; (d) facility security; (e) outer continental shelf facility security; and (f) vessel automatic identification system. (Item 3-A)
4. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published a report dated July 2003 and titled *Security in Maritime Transport: Risk Factors and Economic*

Impact. This report, prepared by the OECD Maritime Transport Committee, explores the risks posed to the international merchant maritime transport system by terrorist organizations. As part of this vulnerability analysis, the report explores the possible economic repercussions of a terrorist attack involving maritime transport. The report also explores the cost implications of security measures enacted in response to this threat. (Item 3-B)

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 or under publications).