



IMCO

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MARINE POLLUTION, 1973
Committee II
Agenda item 2

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT TEXT OF ANNEX I OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION
OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973

Basic Principles for the Definition of Special Areas

Submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

A special area is a geographically enclosed part of the world ocean due to its oceanological and ecological conditions as well as the conditions of reception on the shore.

In case any State or a group of States should desire to declare an enclosed sea or a partially enclosed region of the world ocean as a special area, that State or group of States must submit scientific bases concerning a proposed special area according to the following aspects:

I. Oceanographic aspects

- (1) Data concerning the territory, depth as well as the configuration of the bottom of the area including geomorphological aspects.
- (2) Water balance of the area including counter exchange between the enclosed area and the open sea with regard to the quality of the sea water. The load of pollution of different nature is to be pointed out.

- (3) The hydrodynamic characteristics of the area, including the wind and current velocity, turbulent diffusion in the dimensions.
- (4) Hydrochemical characteristics of the area according to different water movement conditions and seasons including the water temperature, salinity, optical characteristics, the concentration of oil products and phenols, as well as noxious substances (mercury, DDT, etc.), the gas characteristics of the sea (dissolved oxygen, CO₂, H₂S), the presence of organic and biogenic matter which define the degree of entrophication (BOD₅, COD, P, N). The data should be given according to specific profiles and depths.

II. Ecological aspects

- (1) Hydrobiological characteristics of the sea environment concerning plankton and benthic organisms with regard to the biological productivity and its dependence on the physical and chemical characteristics of the areas.
- (2) The influence of the biological productivity of the sea on different species and quantity of fish.
- (3) The dynamics of the self-purification ability of the sea depending upon the noxious substances, particularly on toxic, bioaccumulative and cancerogenic substances, and their influence on the sea ecology.

III. Conditions of the reception of noxious substances on the shore including reception and utilization plants.

According to the above-mentioned conditions, prospective physical, chemical and biological characteristics should be evaluated for the period of 25 to 30 years and above, taking into account propositional discharge of noxious substances into the sea. They will make it possible to conclude whether this particular region of the world ocean can be designated as a special area.

Necessary calculations can be made in accordance with the methodology worked out for the Baltic Sea.