



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

Proposal for defining the boundaries of the
Mediterranean Sea from an oceanographic
point of view (Regulation 12(1)(a))

Submitted by France, Italy, Monaco
and Spain

More precise definitions than those in document MP/CONF/C.2/WP.31/Rev.1 would appear to be necessary if the Mediterranean is to be effectively protected from pollution.

There should be no difficulty in defining the eastern boundary, since both the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea are special areas. It would, however, be advisable to make clear in which area the Bosphorus is situated.

As for the western boundary, two comments may be made:

- (a) From a scientific point of view, the oceanographic phenomena occurring in this area are dominated by the turnover between the Mediterranean and Atlantic waters. This consists normally and in the majority of cases of penetration into the Mediterranean of the lighter surface waters of the Atlantic, while the Mediterranean waters flow out at a greater depth. Thus, all the surface pollutants in the area to the west of the strait are normally carried into the Mediterranean. Protection of the special area should, therefore, begin there.

- (b) Juridically, this universally recognised scientific point of view has been accepted in determining the geographical boundary applicable in certain Conventions or draft Conventions. The applicable boundary in the Oslo Convention, for example, which deals with the dumping of harmful substances from ships and aircraft, has already been fixed at the meridian of $5^{\circ}36'W$. It would be inadvisable to have a multiplicity of boundary definitions.
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