

RESOLUTION A.619(15) adopted on 19 November 1987
USE OF PILOTAGE SERVICES IN THE TORRES STRAIT
AND GREAT BARRIER REEF AREA



ASSEMBLY - 15th session
Agenda item 12

IMO

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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING ALSO that regulations 1(9) and 9 of Annex 1 to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, recognize the need to protect the environment of the Great Barrier Reef, by defining the nearest land off the north-eastern coast of Australia as the outer edge of the Reef and prohibiting the discharge into the sea in its vicinity of oil or oily mixtures from ships,

BEING AWARE of the close relationship between the safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution from ships,

BEING AWARE ALSO of the urgent need to protect the vulnerable Great Barrier Reef area, which has been included in the World Heritage List, and the Torres Strait,

NOTING that the navigation of ships carrying substances harmful to the marine environment through the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait area constitutes a potential danger of pollution to this unique area due to the risk of grounding or collision,

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NOTING ALSO that the routes through the Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef area are difficult to navigate,

TAKING NOTE OF:

- resolution 5 - Intentional pollution of the sea and accidental spillages, adopted by the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973;
- resolution A.159(ES.IV) - Recommendation on pilotage; and
- MSC/Circ.158 - Control of ship's movements of chemical tankers and gas carriers,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-second session,

RECOMMENDS that ships of 100 metres in length and over and all loaded oil tankers, chemical carriers or liquefied gas carriers, irrespective of size, use the pilotage services provided by the Queensland Coast and Torres Strait Pilot Service when navigating in the Torres Strait and inner route of the Great Barrier Reef area between Booby Island (latitude 10°36' south, longitude 141°54' east) and latitude 16°40' south or through the Great North-East Channel, or Hydrographers Passage.

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