

.5 after the approval by the appropriate Sub-Committee or Committee of the Associated Protective Measures, the MEPC may provide final approval of the application for PSSA identification. If the application is rejected, the MEPC should notify the proposing Member Government and provide a statement of reasons for its decision.

4.4 IMO should provide a forum for the review and re-evaluation of any Associated Protective Measure adopted, as necessary, taking into account pertinent comments, reports, and observations on the measures. Member Governments which have ships operating in the area of the identified PSSA are encouraged to bring any concerns over the Associated Protective Measures to IMO so that any necessary adjustments may be made. The Member Governments which originally submitted the application for identification with the Associated Protective Measures should also bring any concerns, or proposals for additional measures or modifications to any Associated Protective Measure, to IMO.

4.5 After adoption of the application for identification of a PSSA and its Associated Protective Measures, IMO should ensure that the effective date of implementation is as soon as possible based on IMO rules and consistent with international law.

4.6 IMO should, in assessing applications for identification of PSSAs and their Associated Protective Measures, take into account the technical and financial resources available to developing Member Governments and those with economies in transition.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF IDENTIFIED PSSAs AND THEIR ASSOCIATED PROTECTIVE MEASURES

5.1 When a PSSA is finally approved, all Associated Protective Measures should be identified on charts in accordance with the symbols and methods of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Proposing Member Governments may also chart identified PSSAs in accordance with appropriate national symbols; however, if an international symbol is adopted by the IHO the proposing Member Governments should mark PSSAs in accordance with such symbol and other IHO recommended methods.

5.2 Proposing Member Governments should ensure that any Associated Protective Measure is implemented in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and any other applicable instruments.

5.3 Member Governments should take all appropriate steps to ensure that ships flying their flag comply with the Associated Protective Measures adopted to protect the area identified as a PSSA. Those Member Governments which have received information of an alleged violation of an Associated Protective Measure by a ship flying their flag should provide the Government which has reported the offence with the details of any appropriate action taken.

ANNEX 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION A.720(17)

The following text is added at the end of the present text of appendix C:

Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago (Cuba)

The Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago was designated as a PSSA in September 1997 (resolution MEPC.74(40)). It is located in the north-central portion of the Republic of Cuba, extending for 465 kilometres between the Hicacos Peninsula and the Bay of Nuevitas. It is the most extensive island sub-group of the Cuban Archipelago, comprising more than 2,515 islands and small keys.

Within this zone, consideration must be given to the coral reef that borders the Archipelago to the North, which gives it good protection and a high conservation value, particularly in view of its good state of preservation and the ecological functions it fulfils.

Along its outer edge there is a coral reef 400 kilometres long, considered as one of the most notable of the Wider Caribbean Region on account of its size and the diversity of its species.

Characteristics which contribute to giving this area special significance are as follows:

Ecological Criteria

The Archipelago is a highly singular and unique territory on account of its natural scenery and associated biodiversity. Its singularity derives from the predominance of carbonaceous island complexes, which have features not found in the rest of the Cuban sub-archipelagos.

This group of islands presents highly significant features, particularly in terms of its biotic resources, on account of which it has been categorised as an independent and clearly-defined bio-geographical, ecological and scenic unit.

Its importance in this connection is not only national but also regional, since within this area almost all the habitats, ecosystems and biocenosis found in the different Caribbean islands are represented. The particular ecological sensitivity of this territory lies in its high degree of interdependency, both internal and external.

Internally, there is a high degree of interaction and interdependence between the coastal and marine ecosystems, especially in the sequence of coastal lagoons/dune systems/beaches/algae/coral reefs; and similarly in the combination of mangrove swamps/coastal lagoons/algae/coral reefs, which occurs most often, and most extensively, in the island group.

Social, Cultural and Economic Criteria

The Archipelago is one of the country's three most productive fishery zones. If productivity is to be maintained, a priority requirement is the conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems. The area is also of great significance for its fish-farming, producing large quantities of fish and shellfish to supply domestic and international markets and the tourist industry.

Additionally, the tourist potential of the hundreds of kilometres of beaches of the highest quality, both aesthetically and environmentally, is a feature of significant importance. An extensive development programme for tourism is being implemented on a short-term, medium-term and long-term basis, promoting not only the "sea, sun and sand" type of tourism but also "ecological" tourism, which explores the wide range of existing natural resources.

Scientific and Educational Criteria

A Coastal Ecosystems Research Centre, based in Cayo Coco, collects and processes data on the area and develops new lines of research and monitoring, providing basic information for the wide range of environmental studies needed to support the long-term development of the territory.

The Centre is also involved in developing studies related to the monitoring of the effects of global climate changes, epidemics and mortality in marine organisms; bird and turtle migration; and genetic interchange between marine organisms. It is also responsible for environmental monitoring, particularly in regard to the impact of tourism.

The Centre's activities make an important contribution to education and to a better understanding of the environment. The many ecosystems, biotic communities and characteristic natural processes that exist in the area provide ideal subjects for study, not only by experts and specialists, but also by local people and by Cuban visitors and tourists who come for recreational purposes.

Protective Measures

Traffic Separation Schemes in the territorial waters of the north coast, including those at the latitude of the Costa de Matanzas and in the Canal Viejo de Bahamas, within the territorial waters of the Archipelago Sabana-Camagüey, were approved at the forty-eighth session of the MSC.

Regulations relating to discharges in inland and territorial waters under the jurisdiction of the Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago.

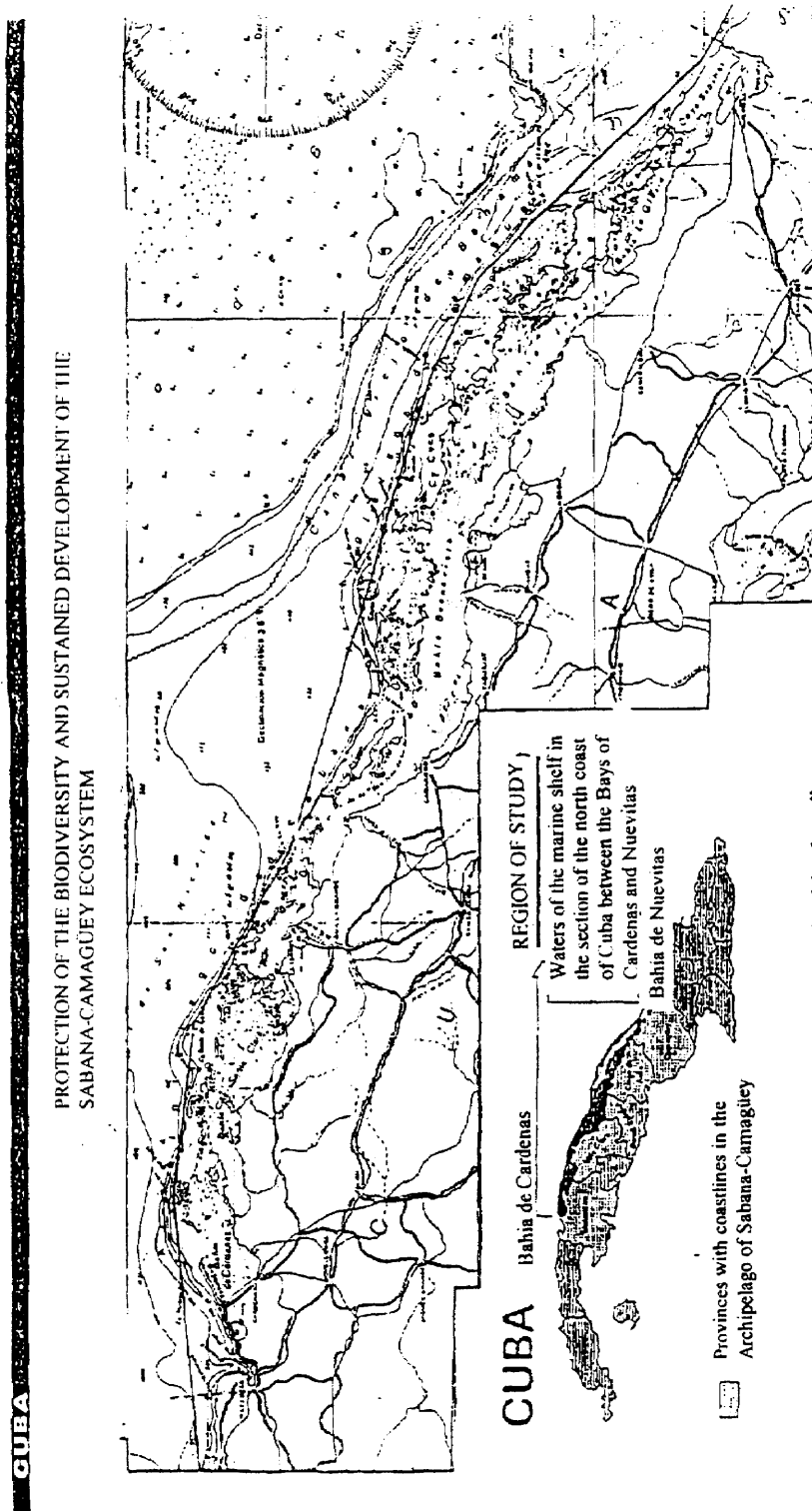
Prohibitions:

Any discharge into the sea, of oil, oily mixtures, noxious liquid substances, garbage or harmful substances from vessels of any type or size.

Any discharge of oil or oily mixtures from cargo tanks, including cargo pumps, from petrol tankers and from engine-room bilge areas, mixed with cargo waste.

Dumping at sea of the following types of garbage from ships of any type or size: 1) Plastics, synthetic fishing lines and nets, plastic garbage bags; 2) loose stowage materials, packing materials and coverings; 3) paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, ceramics or similar materials.

Ships should avoid discharging ballast water or discharging and reloading while transiting waters under the jurisdiction of the Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago (resolution A.774(18): Guidelines for preventing the introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms and pathogens from ships' ballast water and sediment discharges).



Illustrative chart of the PSSA "Sabana-Camaguey Archipelago"
Instituto Cubano de Hidrografia

