

RESOLUTION MEPC.48(31) adopted on 4 July 1991
AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING
TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION
OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973

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(Designation of the Wider Caribbean area as a special
area under Annex V of MARPOL 73/78)

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

NOTING article 16 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1973 Convention") and article VI of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1978 Protocol") which confer upon the appropriate body of the Organization the function of considering and adopting amendments to the 1973 Convention, as modified by the 1978 Protocol (MARPOL 73/78),

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its thirty-first session, amendments to the 1978 Protocol proposed and circulated in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the 1973 Convention,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with article 16(2)(d) of the 1973 Convention, amendments to the Annex of the 1978 Protocol, the text of which is set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with article 16(2)(f)(iii) of the 1973 Convention, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 4 October 1992, unless prior to this date one third or more of the Parties, or the Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute fifty per cent or more of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have communicated to the Organization their objections to the amendments;
3. INVITES the Parties to note that, in accordance with article 16(2)(g)(ii) of the 1973 Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 4 April 1993 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article 16(2)(e) of the 1973 Convention, to transmit to all Parties to Annex V of the 1978 Protocol certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the Annex;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit to the Members of the Organization which are not Parties to Annex V of the 1978 Protocol copies of the resolution and its annex.

ANNEX

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 5 OF ANNEX V OF MARPOL 73/78
(DESIGNATION OF THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AREA
AS A SPECIAL AREA)

Regulation 5 - Disposal of Garbage within Special Areas

The introductory sentence in paragraph (1) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) For the purposes of this Annex the special areas are the Mediterranean Sea area, the Baltic Sea area, the Black Sea area, the Red Sea area, the 'Gulfs area', the North Sea area, the Antarctic area and the Wider Caribbean Region, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, which are defined as follows:"

New subparagraph (h) is added to paragraph (1) as follows:

"(h) The Wider Caribbean Region, as defined in article 2, paragraph 1 of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena de Indias, 1983), means the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea proper including the bays and seas therein and that portion of the Atlantic Ocean within the boundary constituted by the 30°N parallel from Florida eastward to 77°30'W meridian, thence a rhumb line to the intersection of 20°N parallel and 59°W meridian, thence a rhumb line to the intersection of 7°20'N parallel and 50°W meridian, thence a rhumb line drawn southwesterly to the eastern boundary of French Guiana."

New subparagraph (b) of paragraph (2) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) except as provided in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph, disposal into the sea of food wastes shall be made as far as practicable from land, but in any case not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land,"

New subparagraph (c) is added to paragraph (2) as follows:

"(c) disposal into the Wider Caribbean Region of food wastes which have been passed through a comminuter or grinder shall be made as far as practicable from land, but in any case not subject to regulation 4 not less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land. Such comminuted or ground food wastes shall be capable of passing through a screen with openings no greater than 25 millimetres."

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