



KIMO RESOLUTION 2/94

MARPOL - ANNEXES I, II, & V - DISPOSAL OF OILY, NOXIOUS AND GARBAGE INTO SPECIAL AREAS

On 18th February 1991 the North Sea was designated as a "Special Area" under Annex V (Garbage) MARPOL 73/78 by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Since that time the disposal at sea of garbage within the North Sea has been prohibited.

However, while it is illegal for ships to dump waste of any kind in the area, there is no shortage of examples and studies to prove that this law is being broken, with a subsequent increase of the problem, and at present there are no reliable systems to police, detect and prosecute violators.

The mandatory requirement for Port Authorities, to provide reception facilities, under the regulations has been a step in the right direction, but use of these facilities is voluntary and sporadic. The different charging regimes for waste disposal within ports and harbours has placed a disadvantage on responsible port authorities and has given unscrupulous operators of ships opportunities to avoid their responsibilities.

The cost of dealing with this problem falls upon Local Authorities who in most cases are responsible for cleaning beaches. However there are costs to industry (damage to ships and insurance claims, loss of earnings), agriculture (time lost in cleaning fields near to coastlines, loss of sea weed as a fertiliser) tourism (unsightly coastlines). There can be health hazards from dangerous materials washed ashore and there are a wide range of dangers for wildlife. The total cost of the combination of these factors must be substantial.

The problems associated with the illegal disposal of oily and noxious wastes (MARPOL - Annexes I & II) are very similar to those associated with Marine Litter although more dangerous because of the toxic nature of these substances.

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Having regard that marine litter, oily mixtures and residues and noxious liquids and wastes have substantial effects on the ecology and sustainable development of coastal communities surrounding Northern Seas, and recognising that the problem of these substances within the marine environment is global:

- 1) Supports the designation of the North Sea as a "Special Area" under Annex V (Garbage) MARPOL 73/78 and requests all governments, the European Commission and agencies around Northern Seas, international organisations and agencies, particularly the International Maritime Organisation, to initiate measures to enforce this recommendation to safeguard the ecological regions surrounding all oceans and their local economies.**
- 2) Supports the recommendations in the 1993 Quality Status Report on the North Sea for increased surveillance on the disposal of waste from ships and leisure craft and recommends to national governments surrounding Northern Seas, the implementation a uniform fee system within harbours for waste disposal within the context of full cost recovery, to legislate for mandatory discharge of all wastes to port reception facilities, to ensure that ships regulations make provision for sufficient onboard space and facilities for ships waste, to legislate for a mandatory "Waste Log" for all ships, to legislate for Mandatory Waste Management Plans (WMP) for Harbour and Port Authorities and through their membership of the IMO to lobby for a similar international system.**
- 3) Supports the recommendation to legislate for a mandatory "Waste Log" for all ships.**
- 4) Confirms that co-ordinated actions are necessary to share experience on tackling the problems of these substances and that a properly funded scientific, integrated, systematic and uniform monitoring programme should take place to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts.**
- 5) Supports the recommendation that Northern Seas be designated as a "Special Area" in respect of oily mixtures and residues under Annex I and noxious liquids and wastes under Annex II of MARPOL 73/78.**
- 6) Agrees to submit this Resolution to all National Governments, the European Commission and other agencies.**