

February, 2012

MARPOL: LIST OF SPECIAL AREAS & PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Enclosed you find MEPC.1/Circ.778 from IMO with an updated overview of the world's *Special Areas* and *Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas*.

Since the early 1980s the list of *Special Areas* – beginning with the Mediterranean, Baltic Sea, Black Sea and Red Sea – has been developed and expanded under the MARPOL Annexes.

In line with the sailing pattern of the majority of FAS fleet at present, we would like to draw your attention to the regulations pertaining to:

- the North West European waters: protected under Annex I
- the North Sea : protected by the Annex V and VI
- the Baltic Sea : protected under Annex I, IV, V and VI

Likewise, since 1990 the list of *Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas* has been developed and expanded beginning with the Australian Great Barrier Reef.

In addition to the regulations by the MARPOL Annexes, the main impact on shipboard routines while in such **PSSA** area is the mandatory reporting, pilotage and/or recommendation on navigation.

As regards the protected areas of Europe, you should note the following:

- The Wadden Sea : Deep water route mandatory by Res. MEPC.101(48)
 - Western European Waters: Ship reporting system mandatory by Res. MEPC.121(52)
 - Baltic Sea Area : Traffic separation schemes, deepwater route, areas to be avoided, mandatory ship reporting system, MARPOL Special Area; MAPROL SOx Emission Control Area by Res. MEPC.136(53)
- Ref. to: Helsinki Convention: http://www.helcom.fi/Convention/en_GB/convention/
- Strait of Bonifacio : Recommendation on navigation by Res. MEPC.204(62)

Note I: FAS-registered vessels operating outside Europe should make a careful study of the attached MEPC circular in order to stay informed on the Special Areas and the Particularly Sensitive Areas worldwide and related requirements.

Note II: All FAS-registered ships are urged to ensure compliance with regulations, and are by this reminded to review the onboard

- Garbage Management Plan
- Oily Waste management Plan
- Emission Control Plan, and
- As applicable, fuel Changeover Procedures (for sailing from outside into ECA and changing to low sulphur fuel).