



# Technical Information

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No. : 248 - 2021

29 November 2021

To : All BKI Customers

Subject : Summary Report on 77th Session of the IMO Meeting of Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 77)

## Summary

This Technical Information summarizes the result of 77th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 77) that was held remotely from the 22 to 26 November 2021.

## Information

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The following agenda are among those discussed during the meeting:

Agenda Number	Topic
3	Identification and Protection of Special Areas, ECAS and PSSAS
4	Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water
5	Air pollution prevention
6	Energy efficiency of ships
7	Reduction of GHG emissions from ships
8	Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships
9	Pollution prevention and response
10	Reports of other sub-committees
14	Any other business

The Agenda above are several technical issues discussed during the meeting. A brief coverage among the issues are expressed in the attached document.

More info

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## **A. IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF SPECIAL AREAS, ECAS AND PSSAS (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

MEPC 77 noted the information on the feasibility study of a PSSA area in the north-western Mediterranean to minimize the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans submitted by a group of interested Member State.

## **B. HARMFUL AQUATIC ORGANISMS IN BALLAST WATER (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

### **Approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances**

MEPC 77 agreed to grant Final Approval for JFE BallastAce® and HiBallast NF™, and also the Basic Approval for RADClean®. The Committee also agreed to not grant Final Approval for FlowSafe.

### **Unified interpretation of regulations E-1.1.1 and E-1.1.5 of the BWM Convention**

MEPC 77 approved the unified interpretation of regulations E-1.1.1 and E-1.1.5 of the BWM Convention concerning the date to be used for determining the implementation of mandatory commissioning testing of individual ballast water management systems in accordance with resolution MEPC.325(75) and it will be circulated through BWM.2/Circ.76.

### **Application of the BWM Convention to ships operating at ports with challenging water quality**

The draft BWM.2 circular on guidance for the application of the BWM Convention to ships operating at ports with challenging water quality could not be finalized at this session due to the complexity of issues and time constraints. MEPC 77 invited the Member States and international organizations to submit further proposals with regard to guidance on measures that might be taken when BWMS encountered challenging uptake water quality, taking into account agreed on the fundamental elements established at this session.

**Other matters related to ballast water deferred to be discussed intersessionally and submitted the report to MEPC 78:**

- Proposals application of the BWM Convention to multipurpose salvage ships including ships designed and used for emergency response, search and rescue, oil spill response, and emergency towing
- Proposals highlighting the technical and operational challenges of retrofitting BWMS on specialized tugboats
- Draft circular on options for compliance with the BWM Convention for all ships required to meet the regulation D-2 performance standard
- Review of ballast water record book (BWRB) to address different interpretations and ambiguity associated with the "code" that should be used to record entries in the BWRB
- Information and proposal related to experience-building phase (EBP) associated with the BWM Convention
- Proposal unified interpretation of regulation B-3.10 of the BWM Convention
- Proposal procedures for conducting re-evaluations of ballast water management systems which make use of Active Substances.

**C. AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

**Reporting of fuel oil quality and availability under MARPOL Annex VI**

The Committee endorsed the recommended general improvements to the user interface of the MARPOL Annex VI module on GISIS.

With regard to the inclusion of the flashpoint as mandatory information in the bunker delivery note into proposed amendment to appendix V of MARPOL Annex VI, it is agreed that to await the outcome of the work being carried out by MSC on development of further measures to enhance the safety of ships relating to the use of fuel oil.

**2021 Guidelines for exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCSs)**

The draft MEPC resolution on the 2020 Guidelines that had been prepared by PPR 7 has been finalized and adopted by the Committee as 2021 Guidelines for exhaust gas cleaning systems, after agreement on the following matters:

- Technical edit / modifications to the definition for “Phenanthrene equivalent”, or PAH, and the measurement of “turbidity”.
- Regarding to the grace period for the application provisions 2021 EGCS Guidelines was no changing to the originally proposed 6-month grace period after adoption. Guidelines to also apply to existing EGCSs to which amendments to Scheme A (system certification with in-service continuous operational parameter monitoring and periodic emission checks) or Scheme B (continuous emission monitoring by means of an approved monitoring system together with periodic operational parameter checks).
- Additional assessment of the discharge water may be required for those EGCS technologies which make use of chemicals, additives, preparations or create relevant chemicals in situ. The assessment may take into account relevant guidelines, such as the Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances (G9) (resolution MEPC.169 (57)),

The Committee approved MEPC.1/Circ.883/Rev.1 on Guidance on indication of ongoing compliance in the case of the failure of a single monitoring instrument, and recommended actions to take if the exhaust gas cleaning system (EGCS) fails to meet the provisions of the EGCS Guidelines.

### **Title and scope of work of output 1.23**

The Committee agreed to the title of output 1.23 being "Evaluation and harmonization of rules and guidance on the discharge of discharge water from EGCS into the aquatic environment, including conditions and areas", with a target completion year of 2022 and PPR 9 (expected April 2022) was tasked with undertaking this work.

### **Guidance on treatment of innovative energy efficiency technologies for calculation and verification of the attained EEDI**

The Committee approved MEPC.1/Circ. 896 on 2021 Guidance on treatment of innovative energy efficiency technologies for calculation and verification of the attained EEDI and EEXI. The amendments revoke MEPC.1/Circ.815. This 2021 guidance was to be kept under review until sufficient experience was gained in its application, especially this guidance covers newer energy

efficiency developments as they occurred, and Wind Assisted Propulsion Systems (WAPS) and its wind matrix is one example where a need to further develop existing guidance.

#### **D. ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF SHIPS (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

##### **Report of fuel oil consumption data submitted to the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database in GISIS for 2020**

The Committee approved the summary report of fuel oil consumption data submitted to the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database for 2020 and agreed with the proposed recommendations with regard to further improvement to the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database module in GISIS.

Several agenda to be deferred to MEPC 78 for further consideration ; MEPC 77/6/2, MEPC 77/INF.29, MEPC 76/6, MEPC 76/6/3, MEPC 76/6/5, MEPC 76/6/9, MEPC 76/INF.27, MEPC 75/6/4, MEPC 74/5 (IACS) and MEPC 74/5/6.

#### **E. REDUCTION OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM SHIPS (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

##### **Cross-referencing tables between the versions of MARPOL Annex VI**

The Committee approved MEPC/Circ. 897 on cross-referencing tables between the 2021 Revised MARPOL Annex VI and the previous MARPOL Annex VI and to be applied from 1 November 2022 when the 2021 Revised MARPOL Annex VI would enter into force and that "previous MARPOL Annex VI" refers to MARPOL Annex VI which was in force before that date.

##### **Ninth Meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 9)**

It is noted that the ninth meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 9) had been held remotely from 15 to 17 September 2021 and the Committee approved it in general and took action as follows:

- Development of draft lifecycle GHG/carbon intensity guidelines for marine fuels (LCA guidelines). The Committee invited interested Member States and encouraged expert advice to inform on the development of the draft LCA guidelines submit proposals to ISWG-GHG 11.
- Methane slip will be considered within the context of the LCA guidelines at subsequent ISWG-GHG sessions.

## **Tenth - Intersessional working group on reduction of greenhouse gases from ships (ISWG-GHG 10)**

It is noted that the tenth meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 10) had been held remotely from 18 to 22 October 2021 and the Committee considered the following discussions arising out of the work of ISWG-GHG 10:

- Interim report of the Correspondence Group on Carbon Intensity Reduction

The Committee noted the urgency of adopting the outstanding guidelines associated with the implementation of the short-term measure at MEPC 78 to allow sufficient time for ships, Administrations and ROs for preparation and implementation of the short-term measure when it entered into effect in November 2022.

- Consideration of concrete proposals on how to keep the impacts of the short-term measure under review

Discussion under this topic: 2050 target of IMO's initial strategy, introduction of market-based measures (MBMs), LCA guidelines, etc.

Detailed discussions and consideration of newer proposals on mid-term measures are expected to continue during ISWG-GHG 12.

## **Revised Proposal for an International Maritime Research and Development Board**

Proposals considered by MEPC 77 on this topic include the following:

- Automated IMRF R&D contribution system or establishment of the IMRF should involve minimal administrative burdens with this prototype.
- Clear rules and procedures for intellectual property rights (IPRs)
- Responsibilities and commitments in relation to the establishment of the International Maritime Research Board (IMRB).

The Committee also noted the increased support for the proposal to establish an IMRB and associated fund, but also noted that while many delegations saw merit in the establishment of an IMRB in principle, many other delegations opposed the approval of the proposal because of remaining concerns related to, inter alia, technology transfer, redistribution of funds, governance mechanism and access to R&D.

## **Proposals for Revision of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Data Collection System**

MEPC 77 deferred the following discussions to ISWG-GHG 12:

- Inclusion of EEXI and CII values and rating the IMO Data Collection System (DCS) and corresponding amendments to Appendix IX of MARPOL Annex VI.
- Creation of a publicly accessible database for a ships' attained CII and associated rating.

The following discussions are deferred to MEPC 78 (MEPC 76/7/17, MEPC 76/7/22, MEPC 76/7/32 & and MEPC 75/7/10 :

- Proposal to reflect the onboard CO<sub>2</sub> captured (CO<sub>2</sub> removal) in EEDI and EEXI.
- Nitrogen Oxides (NOX) compliance for engines using biofuels and trials using biofuel blends.
- Proposal to include all greenhouse gases emitted from ships, including methane, in the EEDI.

## **F. FOLLOW-UP WORK EMANATING FROM THE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC LITTER FROM SHIPS (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

### **Proposal for making Garbage Record Book mandatory for ships of 100 GT and over**

The Committee noted the Proposal regarding making the Garbage Record Book mandatory for ships of 100 GT and above in order to take actions to further reduce shipping's contribution to marine plastic litter by amending the chapeau of regulation 10.3 and regulation 10.3.6 of MARPOL Annex V. Regarding these proposal, the Committee instructed the PPR Sub-Committee to prepare draft amendments to MARPOL Annex V.

## **G. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

### **Review of the IBTS Guidelines and amendments to the IOPP Certificate and Oil Record Book**

Under this agenda topic, several documents to be deferred to MEPC 78: MEPC 76/9/5 and MEPC 75/10/4 to MEPC 78.

## **H. REPORTS OF OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

### **Outcome of III 7**

MEPC 77 approved the following matters which have already been approved by MSC:



- Procedures for port State control, 2021, and the associated draft Assembly resolution, to revoke resolution A.1138 (31), for submission to the 32nd session of the Assembly for adoption.
- Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2021, and the associated draft Assembly resolution, to revoke resolution A.1140 (31), for submission to the 32nd session of the Assembly for adoption.
- 2019 Non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the IMO Instruments Implementation Code and the associated draft Assembly resolution, to revoke resolution A.1141 (31), for adoption at A32.
- MEPC.1/Circ.898, Model agreement for the authorization of recognized organizations acting on behalf of the Administration.

#### **I. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 14)**

During the virtual meeting, the following matters are considered by MEPC 77:

- Instructed PPR to consider a proposal to amend paragraph 6.2.2 of the revised guidelines and specifications for pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges of ships (resolution MEPC.107 (40)).
- Invited stakeholders to submit proposals on how to best proceed with the work related to Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).
- Noted a study on the contents and volumes of grey water passenger ships and its management in Alaska and invite proposals for a new work output to be submitted.