

IMO

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
48th session
Agenda item 7

MEPC 48/WP.14
9 October 2002
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**IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF SPECIAL AREAS AND
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS**

Report of the Informal Working Group

1 Introduction

1.1 An Informal Working Group to review applications for designation of Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas met from 7 to 9 October 2002, under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. Nelson (Australia).

1.2 The Group was attended by delegations from Australia, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom and United States, and by observers from the non-governmental organizations FOEI and WWF.

2 Terms of reference

2.1 The Informal Working Group was instructed to:

- .1 review the proposals for the marine area of the Paracas National Reserve and for the Wadden Sea to be designated as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), proposals contained in MEPC 48/7 and MEPC 48/7/2, to determine whether they address the provisions of the Guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (Annex 2 of Resolution A.927(22));
- .2 review the proposal to extend the "Gulfs" Special Area for Annexes I and V of MARPOL 73/78, MEPC 48/7/3 and MEPC 48/7/3/Corr.1, to determine whether it addresses the provisions of the Guidelines for the Designation of Special Areas under MARPOL 73/78 (Annex 1 of Resolution A.927(22)); and
- .3 provide a written report to the plenary outlining its findings.

3 Work done

3.1 The Informal Working Group examined each submission against a checklist with 46 questions for PSSAs and 18 questions for Special Areas, covering all the criteria set out in Resolution A.927(22).

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Wadden Sea PSSA proposal

3.2 The Group reviewed the joint submission by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands (MEPC 48/7/2), and considered the information provided orally to the Group, and agreed that the submission included information on all applicable criteria, and that this information satisfied the requirements of those criteria. The Group recommended that as IMO measures already exist to protect this area, and there are no new measures requiring referral to any other Committee or Sub-Committee, MEPC take appropriate steps to designate the area as a PSSA. The text of an MEPC resolution as attached at annex 1.

Paracas National Reserve PSSA proposal

3.3 The Group reviewed the proposal by Peru (MEPC 48/7) and agreed that all environmental criteria were satisfied. In response to concerns expressed by the Group regarding the need for more information on some criteria, in particular on the volume of traffic and hazardous cargoes, Peru provided additional information which is reproduced in annex 2. The Group determined that this information satisfied the relevant criteria.

3.4 The Group in considering the two associated protective measures proposed by Peru, namely an Area to be Avoided and a “no discharge” area, recommended that the Area to be Avoided should be referred to the NAV Sub-Committee. As regards the proposed “no discharge” area, prohibiting any kind of discharge from ships, the Group determined that the information provided was not sufficient to justify the establishment of such an area.

3.5 Accordingly, in accordance with the Guidelines, the Group recommended that MEPC approve the PSSA, in principle, pending consideration of the proposal for an Area to be Avoided by the NAV Sub-Committee on the basis of a separate submission by Peru.

Special Area

3.6 The Group determined that the submission by Oman for the extension of the Special Area in the Gulfs Area for Annexes I and V of MARPOL 73/78 satisfied all environmental criteria. Additional information on proposed amendments to MARPOL 73/78 and a chart, which are attached at annex 3, as well as information provided orally to the Group, was provided by the delegation of Oman.

3.7 The Group agreed that further information was required to show that the discharge of garbage from ships, when operating in accordance with MARPOL 73/78, was a particular threat. Accordingly, the Group determined that the submission satisfies the requirement for Special Areas status in respect of Annex I, but not Annex V of MARPOL 73/78. The Group therefore recommended that the Oman Area of the Arabian Sea be designated as a Special Area under Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, as defined in the submission and annex 3 to this document.

4 Action requested of the Committee

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- .1 note the outcomes of the Informal Working Group;
- .2 take appropriate steps to provide final designation of the Wadden Sea as a PSSA, noting the suggested text of an MEPC resolution at annex 1;

- .3 refer the proposal for an Area to be Avoided in the Paracas National Reserve to the NAV Sub-Committee;
- .4 approve, in principle, the designation of Paracas National Reserve as a PSSA, pending consideration of the proposal for an Area to be Avoided by the relevant NAV Sub-Committee; and
- .5 adopts amendments to MARPOL 73/78 in order to designate the Oman area of the Arabian Sea as a Special Area under Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, as defined in the submission and annex 3.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTION MEPC....

Adopted on.....

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE WADDEN SEA
AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREA**

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

BEING AWARE of the ecological, social, economic, cultural, scientific and educational value of the Wadden Sea, as well as its vulnerability to damage by international shipping traffic and activities in the area and the steps taken by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to address that vulnerability,

NOTING that the Guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas adopted under resolution A.927(22) set out procedures for the designation of particularly sensitive sea areas,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposal from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to designate the Wadden Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area,

HAVING AGREED that criteria for identification of a particularly sensitive sea area provided in resolution A.927(22) are fulfilled for the Wadden Sea,

1 DESIGNATES the Wadden Sea as defined in the Annex to this resolution as a particularly sensitive sea area.

ANNEX 2

Remark by B. Reineking, CWSS, 20.11.2002

Sorry, Annex 2 was not available in the document I received from the IMO. This Annex is dealing with the Paracas National Reserve and therefore not relevant for the Wadden Sea PSSA.

ANNEX 3

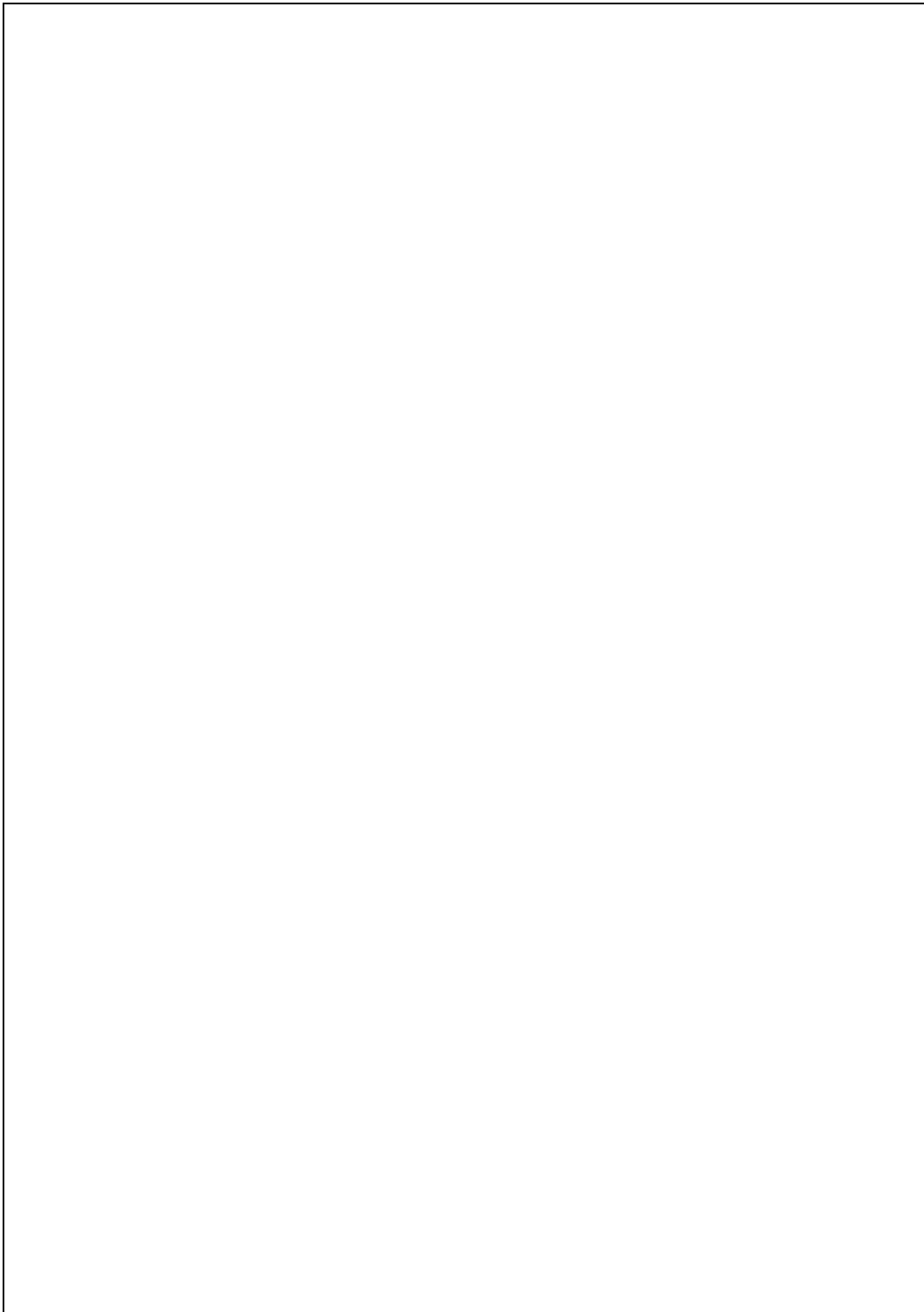


Fig. 2. Map of Designated Special Area of the RSA with the Proposed Special Area (PSA) along the Arabian Sea coast of Oman and including the 200 Nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone. Note tanker lanes marked close to Ras Al Hadd shown in greater detail in Fig.3.

Cabinet:25 Shipping-Harbour:25.01 PSSA:MEPC 48:Documents MEPC 48:MEPC 48 Final documents:MEPC 48 WP 14without Annex2.doc

**Proposal for designation of the Oman area of the Arabian Sea as a Special Area under
Annex I of MARPOL 73/78**

Proposed amendment to MARPOL 73/78

(10)(1)(e)(bis)

“The Oman area of Arabian Sea means the sea area enclosed by the following coordinates:

- A: 23°50.897_N
60°50.261_E
- B: 21°50.009_N
63°27.044_E
- C: 17°52.188_N
61°10.207_E
- D: 14°22.727_N
57°22.670_E
- E: 15°46.062_N
54°10.143_E
- F: 16°38.619_N
53°15.882_E ”

(Best Estimates of Coordinates based on C-Map and Printed Chart (1:500,000))
