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## Conference on Environmental Aspects of Shipping

Conference at the Nautical Department of the Bremen University of Applied Sciences on 25 - 26 November 1999

The conference was organized by the GAUSS – Institute of Applied Environmental Protection and Safety in Maritime Traffic in cooperation with the Working Group on Environmental Effects of Shipping, MAUS. The GAUSS is a non-profit organization operating as a communication and transfer office for specific subjects regarding environmental protection and safety in maritime traffic. The MAUS – at the moment, still a few representatives from research institutes as well as federal and state agencies – continues the tradition of a former German working group for the investigation of oil spills and the pollution of the maritime environments by other substances. The MAUS planned to provide a platform for information exchange and communication for the collection and distribution of knowledge on ecological effects of shipping-related pollution on the marine environment. With this conference, the MAUS aimed at the establishment of a more permanent network of both representatives of the maritime and of the ecological sector.

The patronage of the conference was with the President of the State of Bremen, Major Dr. H. Scherf and the congress was supported by several federal and state institutions as well as multinational organizations and research institutes, respectively. About 120 German and Dutch representatives from the shipping as well as the environmental sector participated in the conference. With the auditorium and the about 20 experts who gave lectures, the competencies of ecology, technology, administration, economy and practical expertness from both sectors were combined and the public was involved. The quality of the lectures, the higher number of participants than expected and the lively discussions were taken as signs for the success of the conference and the organizers.

The given interest of the AMRI, Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe, supported the aspect to combine regional/national fora with international ones. The Federal Ministry of Transport was represented by Ms Grimm, who informed the auditorium on the topical status quo, considerations and the decisions regarding the concerned international agreements directly after the last IMO Assembly meeting.

The subjects focussed on at the conference, such as the introduction of alien species through ballast water, organotin-based and alternative antifouling paints, the precautionary approach, monitoring and control measures as well as instruments for the implementation to reduce environmental effects, covered only parts of the environmental problems of shipping. However, in total these subjects were able to inform about the interconnected aspects between ecology, economy, administration and technology.

The still unsatisfied situation regarding the remaining risk of shipping averages, especially oil pollution caused by accidents and illegal discharges, were demonstrated. The establishment of Particular Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA), the further development of MARPOL as well as the implementation of green/environmentally sound maritime transport were emphasized as important instruments for the reduction of environmental effects by shipping. The installation of a PSSA Wadden Sea will only be efficient, if it is a trilateral initiative by The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.

Such an integrated approach, as at the conference is also suitable in the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) to install a permanent forum on this topic, which will be able to stress focal points of necessary research; to emphasize solution strategies for existing and new conflicts; to evaluate and assess results and to demonstrate developments for technical and administrative standards.

It would be very welcome, if such a conference on relevant themes of environmental aspects of shipping were followed with further ones on a regular basis, e.g. every two years as it was announced by the organizers.

Proceedings of the conference including the lectures, discussions and summaries of the posters will be published in spring 2000 and can be ordered at the:  
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