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Circular letter No.3053
14 April 2010

To: Parties to the MARPOL Convention
IMO Member Governments who are not Parties to the MARPOL Convention
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Notification of the establishment of the date on which discharge requirements for the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area under MARPOL Annex V shall take effect**

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with the request of the sixtieth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (22 to 26 March 2010), the text of resolution MEPC.191(60) regarding the establishment of the date on which discharge requirements for the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area under MARPOL Annex V shall take effect. The text of the MEPC resolution is shown at annex.

2 Recognizing the discharge requirements for the Special Area can only take effect as from 1 May 2011 in accordance with the relevant regulations of the MARPOL Convention, Member Governments and Parties to the MARPOL Convention are invited to encourage the shipping industry to comply on a voluntary basis with the discharge requirements immediately for the Special Area.

ANNEX

RESOLUTION MEPC.191(60)

Adopted on 25 March 2010

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DATE ON WHICH
REGULATION 5(1)(h) OF MARPOL ANNEX V IN RESPECT OF THE WIDER
CARIBBEAN REGION SPECIAL AREA SHALL TAKE EFFECT**

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38 of the Convention of the International Maritime Organization concerning the function of the Committee,

NOTING regulation 5(1)(h) of Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), defines the Wider Caribbean Region as a Special Area under the said Annex,

NOTING ALSO the definition of Special Area under MARPOL Annex V, *i.e.* a sea area where for recognized technical reasons in relation to its oceanographical and ecological condition and to the particular character of its traffic, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of pollution of the sea by garbage is required,

NOTING FURTHER the information provided at MEPC 60 by Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, France, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – representing the MARPOL Parties of concern bordering the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area – regarding reception facilities provided within the said Special Area, in accordance with regulation 5(4) of MARPOL Annex V,

HAVING CONSIDERED the matter to establish the date on which the discharge requirements of regulation 5(1)(h) of MARPOL Annex V in respect of the Wider Caribbean Region shall take effect,

1. DECIDES that the discharge requirements for Special Areas in regulation 5 of MARPOL Annex V for the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area shall take effect on 1 May 2011, in accordance with the requirements set out in regulation 5(4)(b) of MARPOL Annex V;
2. ENCOURAGES Member Governments and industry groups to comply immediately on a voluntary basis with the Special Area requirements for the Wider Caribbean Region;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to notify, in conformity with regulation 5(4)(b) of MARPOL Annex V, all Parties to the Annex, of the aforementioned decision by 30 April 2010; and
4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to notify all Members of the Organization of the aforementioned decision.