



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 611 of 9th February 2020

To	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag	All Flags
Title	Marine Plastic Litter
Reference	MEPC 74, 75

Marine Plastics Litter

Plastics now flow into the ocean at an estimated eight million metric tons per year. About 80% of ocean plastics come from land-based sources. The remaining 20% are from marine sources, though in certain regions, marine sources can dominate. For example, more than half the plastics in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (between Hawaii and California) come from fishing nets, ropes, and lines. At the IMO, Member States, including the RMI, are doing their part to address the problem.

In 2018, the IMO adopted an Action Plan, to address marine plastic litter from ships. During MEPC 74, a WG, in which the Administrator participated, met to discuss how to move forward. It agreed to:

1. Establish a CG to finalize a draft strategy, based on discussions during MEPC 74, and report to MEPC 75.
2. Approve the reference terms for an IMO Study on marine plastic litter from ships.

The IMO study will focus on the contribution of all ships to marine plastic litter; and the storage, delivery, and reception of plastic waste from and collected by ships. The study will not begin until it receives enough funding.

In addition, the PPR will address marine plastic litter from ships that had been categorized in the Action Plan as short-term. This includes facilitating and enhancing reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear.

The MEPC agreed to complete actions by 2025, for all ships, including fishing vessels. This supports the IMO's commitment to meet the targets set in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14).

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REFERENCES:

- MEPC 74,75
- ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

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