



## TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 682 of 6<sup>h</sup> May 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Marine Plastic Litter from Ships</b>
Reference	MARPOL Annex V

### **Marine Plastic Litter from Ships**

The sub-Committee considered the report of a Correspondance Group which was tasked to progress revisions to MARPOL Annex V with the objective of enhancing the reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear. While this is something already addressed in Regulation 10.6 MARPOL Annex V, it was previously agreed that the implementation of this needed to be emphasized and improved as part of the IMOs Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships. Additionary, a new Regulation 10.7 of MARPOL Annex V has been drafted to require Flag Administrations to notify the IMO of the loss or discharge of fishing gear, so that the info may be consolidated and studied.

There was some disagreement on details of the information to be reported to the IMO, such as whether there should be a size threshold for lost/discharged fishing gear to be reported, and wheather a qualifying description of the lost/discharged fishing gear should be included in the reporting. There was agreement that such info should be reported through and accessible through a dedicated module in the IMOs GISIS database. A new Appendix III to MARPOL Annex V has been drafted to identify the informatin that is to be submitted to the IMO on lost/discharged fishing gear, once this info is finalized and agreed.

Noting that two important reports from GESAMP (Group of Experts on the Scienitic Aspects of Marine Environment Protection) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) concerning marine plastic litter are due to be submitted to MEPC 76 (June 2021), discussion on this subject will continue at PPR 9 (Spring 2022). A work group will be established at PPR 9 to consider the reports from GESAMP and FAO and progress this work on amendments to MARPOL Annex V including draft amendments to the 2017 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V (MEPC.295(71)) to support the implementation of the proposed MARPOL Annex V ammendments. The target completion date for these amendments will be extended from 2021 to 2023, pending

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approval by the MEPC.

REFERENCES:

- MARPOL Annex V

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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