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Circular letter No.2899  
29 July 2008

To: Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention 1972);

Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention (London Protocol);

UN Members that are neither Contracting Parties to the London Convention, nor to the London Protocol;

The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank);

Intergovernmental organizations which have been granted observership status by the governing bodies under the London Convention and Protocol\* ; and

Non-governmental international organizations which the governing bodies under the London Convention and Protocol had decided to invite \*

Subject: **Invitation to contribute to the Global State of Sea Dumping Report**

## **Background**

The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention) is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and take all practicable steps and to prevent pollution of the sea by the dumping of waste and other matter. In 1996 the London Protocol was agreed to modernize and updates the Convention and, eventually to replace it. The London Protocol prohibits all dumping except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called “reverse list”.

Of 192 countries that are members of the United Nations, currently 85 are Party to the Convention and 35 are Party to the Protocol. These two international regimes, combined with the various regional treaties to control sea dumping have:

- significantly reduced the overall amount of wastes being dumped into the world’s seas;
- largely ended the dumping of radioactive and industrial wastes and incineration at sea;

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\* Listed on page 4.

- restricted those wastes that are still dumped to less environmentally harmful materials such as dredge material, sewage sludge, fish and food-waste; and
- placed clearer and stronger controls and conditions on the dumping of those wastes.

However, there are still many countries that are not yet party to these instruments, and many developing countries face significant barriers to acceding to these regimes, and many of those countries that are a party, especially developing countries, face significant barriers to implementing and complying with the regimes.

### **Global State of Sea Dumping Report**

In 2006/2007, the governing bodies of the London Convention and Protocol undertook a global review to identify barriers to accession to, implementation of and compliance with international sea dumping controls (in “developing” countries) with a view to expand their membership to the Protocol and improve implementation (compliance) with the instruments to better protect the marine environment.

This review identified that to further encourage accessions to the Protocol and promote its effective implementation, ultimately reducing and better managing the dumping of wastes at sea, then it is first necessary to obtain a more complete understanding of the true extent of the issue.

As a first step, it is intended to develop a global inventory of dumping activities for the period 2000-2005 (licensed or not) and/or if there are any plans to dump wastes at sea. This information will contribute to a **Global State of Sea Dumping Report** to provide a better understanding of what is being dumped in the world, and where, focussing not only the reports on dumping activities provided by Parties to the London Convention and Protocol but, in particular, on those countries outside of those reporting systems.

For this purpose materials will be collected by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS) in the United Kingdom under the direction of the IMO Office for the London Convention and Protocol.

### **Information collection and contributions**

The Office for the London Convention and Protocol kindly requests information from your country, or organization, for the period 2000-2005 that could be included in the **Global State of the Sea Dumping Report**, in particular, information on:

- quantities of material dumped at sea;
- types of waste dumped at sea;
- frequency of dumping activities (if possible);
- period over which dumping occurred; and
- information, on whether dumping activities were subject to any administrative and/or environmental controls (i.e. permits).

Any information you or your organization could supply would be gratefully received, however if you are not in the position to provide the information requested then the IMO Office for the London Convention and Protocol I would appreciate if you could direct us to other persons/organizations in your country who may be able to assist.

The Office for the London Convention and Protocol would appreciate a response, as soon as is practicably possible, and that responses be sent to the following address or to the email:

Dr. A. C. Birchenough  
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)  
Lowestoft Laboratory  
Pakefield Road, Lowestoft  
Suffolk NR33 0HT  
United Kingdom

Tel: +441502-562244  
Fax: +441502-513865  
Email: andrew.birchenough@cefass.co.uk

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\* **International organizations that the governing bodies decided to invite:**

**Intergovernmental organizations other than United Nations organizations:**

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
European Commission (EC)  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)  
Helsinki Commission  
OSPAR Commission  
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP)  
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)  
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)

**Non-governmental international organizations:**

International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)  
European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)  
Greenpeace International  
International Navigation Association (PIANC)  
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP)  
Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS)  
World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA)  
International Ocean Institute (IOI)