**MEPC 70 – Brief Report**

The Committee on Marine Environment Protection held its seventieth session from 24 October to 28 October 2016, in IMO headquarters in London. This report provides an overview on main points and results.

Highlights:

* Amendments to Annex VI of MARPOL (Resolution MEPC.278(70)), that mandate a global data collection system for fuel oil consumption.
* Adoption of the revised Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8).
* "1 January 2020" as the effective date of implementation for ships to comply with 0.50% m/m Sulphur content of fuel oil requirement.
* Approval of the roadmap for developing a "Comprehensive IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships".

***Adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments***

The Committee:

* Adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex I, appendix II, updating the Form B of the Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (Resolution MEPC.276(70), entry into force 1/03/2018);
* Adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex V related to HME substances and to the Form of Garbage Record Book (Resolution MEPC.277(70), entry into force 1/03/2018);
* Adopted amendments to Annex VI of MARPOL (Resolution MEPC.278(70)), that mandate a global data collection system for fuel oil consumption which will apply to all ships of 5,000 GT and above that will collect, according to the methodology included in their SEEMP and report on an annual basis:
* IMO number;
* Ship type;
* GT, NT;
* DWT;
* Power output (rated power) of main and auxiliary engines (kW) (of more than 130kW);
* EEDI (if applicable);
* Ice class (if applicable);
* Total annual fuel consumption, by fuel type, in metric tons and methods used for collecting fuel consumption data;
* Distance (on ground) travelled, and service hours.

These amendments enter into force on 1 March 2018 and the collection will start in 2019.

***Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water***

The Committee:

* Adopted revised Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8), with resolution MEPC.279(70). As per the Resolution, these revised G8 Guidelines apply:
* When approving ballast water management systems as soon as possible, but not later than 28 October 2018;
* And to ballast water management systems installed on ships on or after 28 October 2020;
* While ballast water management systems installed on board ships prior to 28 October 2020 should be approved taking into account either resolution MEPC.174(58), or preferably the revised Guidelines (G8);
* The word installed meaning the contractual date of delivery of the ballast water management system to the ship. In the absence of such a date, the word installed means the actual date of delivery of the ballast water management system to the ship.
* Established a correspondence group to further develop the experience building phase associated with the BWM Convention;
* Invited submissions with draft text for guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention;
* Endorsed the view of the Review Group that the same risk area (SRA) concept is in line with the Guidelines (G7), that no further guidance on the matter is necessary and that Administrations may grant exemptions in accordance with regulation A-4 based on the SRA concept, subject to consultation and agreement between States that may be affected by such exemptions;
* Endorsed the conclusion of the Review Group that discharges of ballast water carried in cargo tanks of oil tankers are already covered by MARPOL Annex I, and that no amendments in this regard are needed to the BWM Convention.
* Instructed PPR 4 to consider annex 1 of the report of the correspondence group (MEPC 70/4/3), to determine if any of the options for a matrix on System Design Limitations would be useful to be developed into separate guidance to be used in conjunction with Guidelines (G8);
* Agreed that compliance with regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention should be validated in conjunction with commissioning of individual BWMS by a quick indicative test, and invited submissions on the matter for consideration at MEPC 71.

The Committee agreed that the revised Guidelines (G8) should be made mandatory and renamed as "Code for approval of ballast water management systems", and instructed the Secretariat to prepare any consequential amendments to the Code, and prepare draft amendments to regulation D-3 of the BWM Convention, to reflect its mandatory status, for circulation upon entry into force of the Convention.

The Committee extensively debated proposals to further amend the approved (at MEPC 69) draft amendments to regulation B-3 of the BWM Convention and an associated draft MEPC resolution on determination of the date referred to in regulation B-3 (that are in line with Resolution A.1088(28)), but agreed to maintain the decision of MEPC 69; this will be revisited at MEPC 71.

***Air pollution and Energy Efficiency & Further technical and operational measures for enhancing energy efficiency of international shipping***

*EEDI reviews required under regulation 21.6 of MARPOL Annex VI*

Having considered the four options for ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships identified by the correspondence group, the Committee noted that the ensuing discussion had identified the need for further information, experience and data, and invited interested Member Governments and international organizations to submit concrete proposals for relevant amendments to the EEDI requirements and/or relevant guidelines for ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships to MEPC 71.

The Committee also agreed to retain the current reduction rates, time periods and the EEDI reference line parameters of phase 2 requirements for ship types other than ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships.

*Review of fuel oil availability as required by regulation 14.8 of MARPOL Annex VI*

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to "1 January 2020" as the effective date of implementation for ships to comply with 0.50% m/m Sulphur content of fuel oil requirement as set out in regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI, as reflected in Resolution MEPC.280(70).

In recognizing the concerns expressed about the implementation phase, agreed to forward document MEPC 70/5/2 to PPR 4 for further consideration and to draft a justification and scope for a new output on what additional measures may be developed to promote consistent implementation of the 0.50% global Sulphur limit for consideration at MEPC 71.

*Proposals to designate additional ECAs for NOX Tier III control*

The Committee approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI to designate the North Sea and the Baltic Sea as emission control areas for NOX Tier III control with an effective date of 1 January 2021, including exemption provisions to allow ships fitted with dual fuel engines or with only Tier II engines to be built, converted, repaired and/or maintained at shipyards located in NOX Tier III ECAs.

***Working Group on Air pollution and energy efficiency***

The Committee:

* Agreed that it would be necessary to start a thorough review on EEDI phase 3 requirements and their early implementation, as well as the possibility of establishing a phase 4, soon after MEPC 71. Such a thorough review should be finalized in time for adoption of the necessary amendments to MARPOL Annex VI for early implementation of phase 3, with a view to 2022, and if agreed, introduction of phase 4, as soon as possible;
* Endorsed additional information to be included in the EEDI database for the next EEDI review (dimensional parameters, draught or depth, ship speed and power of main engine(s), innovative energy efficiency technologies: name of technologies, outline of technologies, and means/ways of performance of technologies), from 1/09/2017 and that data already submitted for inclusion in the EEDI database does not need to be updated when additional data and information are added to the database;
* Adopted amendments to the 2014 Guidelines on the method of calculation of the attained EEDI for new ships (resolution MEPC.245(66), as amended by resolution MEPC.263(68)), concerning the calculation method for the EEDI for ships with dual fuel engines that use gas fuel as non-primary fuel and a new correction factor for wood chip carriers;
* Adopted the 2016 Guidelines for the development of a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) as called for by the a.m. amendments to Annex VI on a data collection system for fuel oil consumption (Resolution MEPC.282(70)).

***Reduction of GHG emissions from ships***

The Committee approved the roadmap for developing a "Comprehensive IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships".

This roadmap includes the adoption of the initial IMO Strategy in 2018 and the adoption of a revised IMO Strategy, including short-, mid- and long-term further measure(s), as required, with implementation schedules, in 2023. It is based on the so called three-step approach consisting of data collection, analysis and decision making. This will be developed by intersessional working groups, as necessary, in the coming years.

***Any other business***

The Committee:

* Adopted resolution MEPC.284(70) on Amendments to the 2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants, based on IACS proposals at MEPC 69;
* Adopted resolution MEPC.285(70) on amendments to the Revised Guidelines and specifications for pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges of ships (resolution MEPC.107(49)), based on the IACS UI MPC 127;
* Approved a consolidated MEPC circular (MEPC.1/Circ.868) on Revised unified interpretations of regulation 12 of MARPOL Annex I.

***Next MEPC Meetings***

MEPC 71 has been scheduled to be held from 8 to 12 May 2017 and MEPC 72 has been tentatively scheduled to be held in spring 2018.

The Committee agreed the following new outputs:

* Update of the Guidelines for the application of the revised MARPOL Annex I requirements to floating production, storage and offloading facilities (FPSOs) and floating storage units (FSUs) (resolution MEPC.139(53)), as amended) (MEPC 70/15/1);
* Guide on practical method to implement the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol (MEPC 70/15/2);
* Amendments to regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI (MEPC 70/15/3) to require FO sampling points;
* Review of the Integrated Bilge Treatment System (IBTS) Guidelines (MEPC 70/15/4); and
* Revision of the 2011 Guidelines addressing additional aspects to the NOX Technical Code 2008 with regard to particular requirements related to marine diesel engines fitted with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) Systems (resolution MEPC.198(62), as amended by resolution MEPC.260(68) (MEPC 70/9, MEPC 70/9/1 and MEPC 70/15/6) (to PPR 4).

***Foreseen WGs at MEPC 71***

* Air pollution and energy efficiency;
* Reduction of GHG emissions from ships;
* Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water;
* Consideration and adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments (DG).

***Correspondence groups established by MEPC 70 to report to MEPC 71***

* Correspondence Group to further develop the experience building phase associated with the BWM Convention;
* Correspondence Group on Data collection system for fuel oil consumption.

***Resolutions approved by MEPC70:***

* RESOLUTION MEPC.276(70) – AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX I, APPENDIX II (FORM B OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE);
* RESOLUTION MEPC.277(70) - AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX V (HME SUBSTANCES AND FORM OF GARBAGE RECORD BOOK);
* RESOLUTION MEPC.278(70) – AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX VI (DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR FUEL OIL CONSUMPTION);
* RESOLUTION MEPC.279(70) – GUIDELINES FOR APPROVAL OF BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (G8);
* RESOLUTION MEPC.280(70) ON EFFECTIVE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUEL OIL STANDARD IN REGULATION 14.1.3 OF MARPOL ANNEX VI;
* RESOLUTION MEPC.281(70) – AMENDMENTS TO THE 2014 GUIDELINES ON THE METHOD OF CALCULATION OF THE ATTAINED ENERGY EFFICIENCY DESIGN INDEX (EEDI) FOR NEW SHIPS (RESOLUTION MEPC.245(66), AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION MEPC.263(68));
* RESOLUTION MEPC.282(70) – 2016 GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SHIP ENERGY EFFICIENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (SEEMP);
* RESOLUTION MEPC.283(70) – DESIGNATION OF THE JOMARD ENTRANCE AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREA;
* RESOLUTION MEPC.284(70) – AMENDMENTS TO THE 2012 GUIDELINES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFLUENT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS;
* RESOLUTION MEPC.285(70) – AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION EQUIPMENT FOR MACHINERY SPACE BILGES OF SHIPS (RESOLUTION MEPC.107(49)).

***Circulars approved by MEPC70***

* MEPC.1/Circ.864 Guidelines for onboard sampling for the verification of the Sulphur content of fuel oil used on board ships;
* MEPC.1/Circ.865 Unified interpretations to the NOX Technical Code 2008 related to the approval of SCR systems;
* MEPC.1/Circ.866 2014 Guidelines on the method of calculation of the attained;
* EEDI for new ships (resolution MEPC.245(66), as amended by resolution MEPC.263(68) and resolution MEPC.281(70));
* MEPC.1/Circ.867 Unified interpretations of regulations 27 and 28 of MARPOL Annex I;
* MEPC.1/Circ.868 Unified interpretations of regulation 12 of MARPOL Annex I;
* MEPC.1/Circ.869 Unified Interpretation on the inclusion of the weight of the mediums of fire-fighting systems in the "lightweight" of a ship;
* MSC-MEPC.5/Circ.11 Unified interpretation relating to the IBC Code;
* MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.16 Example of a Certificate of Protection for products requiring oxygen-dependent inhibitors.