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ANNEX 17

RESOLUTION MEPC.44(30)

adopted on 16 November 1990

IDENTIFICATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION
AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREA

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

BEING AWARE that the Great Barrier Reef region has been inscribed on the World Heritage List established pursuant to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the only exclusively marine area to have been so inscribed,

RECALLING that amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, concerning the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, adopted on 12 October 1971, recognize the need to protect the Great Barrier Reef by defining the nearest land off the north-eastern coast of Australia as the outer edge of the Reef and prohibiting the discharge into the sea in its vicinity of oil, or oily mixtures, even in limited quantities, from ships,

RECALLING ALSO that Annexes I, II, IV and V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, recognize the need to protect the environment of the Great Barrier Reef, by defining the nearest land off the north-eastern coast of Australia as the outer edge of the reef and prohibiting the discharge into the sea in its vicinity of various harmful substances from ships,

NOTING that article 211(6) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is further evidence of the will of States to co-operate in defining vulnerable marine areas requiring a higher level of protection than that which generally applies,

NOTING ALSO resolution 9 of the International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention (TSPP) 1978 concerning the protection of Particularly Sensitive Areas,

CONFIRMING that the Great Barrier Reef fulfils the criteria for identification as a particularly sensitive area, approved at the twenty-ninth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee,

IDENTIFIES the Great Barrier Reef region as defined in the Annex to this resolution [MEPC 30/INF.12 will be attached] as a particularly sensitive area in terms of the Guidelines for the Designation of Special Areas and the Identification of Particularly Sensitive Areas approved by the thirtieth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee.

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