

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE SEA BY OIL, 1954

The Governments represented at the International Conference on Pollution of the Sea by Oil held in London from 26th April, 1954, to 12th May, 1954,

Desiring to take action by common agreement to prevent pollution of the sea by oil discharged from ships, and considering that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Convention,

Have accordingly appointed the undersigned plenipotentiaries, who having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

(1) For the purposes of the present Convention, the following expressions shall (unless the context otherwise requires) have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:

“The Bureau” has the meaning assigned to it by Article XXI;

“Discharge” in relation to oil or to an oily mixture means any discharge or escape howsoever caused;

“Heavy diesel oil” means marine diesel oil, other than those distillates of which more than 50 per cent by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 340°C. when tested by A.S.T.M. Standard Method D.158/53;

“Mile” means a nautical mile of 6080 feet or 1852 metres;

“Oil” means crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil and lubricating oil, and “oily” shall be construed accordingly.

(2) For the purposes of the present Convention the territories of a Contracting Government mean the territory of the country of which it is the Government and any other territory for the international relations of which the Government is responsible and to which the Convention shall have been extended under Article XVIII.

ARTICLE II

The present Convention shall apply to sea-going ships registered in any of the territories of a Contracting Government, except

- (i) ships for the time being used as naval auxiliaries;
- (ii) ships of under 500 tons gross tonnage;
- (iii) ships for the time being engaged in the whaling industry;
- (iv) ships for the time being navigating the Great Lakes of North America and their connecting and tributary waters as far east as the lower exit of the Lachine Canal at Montreal in the Province of Quebec, Canada.