

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
1843
House Bill No. _____

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Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

Explanatory Note

On 02 November 1973, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977, hence the convention was more popularly known as the MARPOL 73/78. The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships – both accidental pollution and that from routine operations – and currently includes six (6) technical Annexes.

The IMO entered into force in 1958 and provided machinery for cooperation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships. The Philippines has been a member of the IMO since 1964 and has ever since committed our nation's support in promoting maritime safety.

In 1976, Presidential Decree No. 976 was promulgated to prevent and control the pollution of seas by the dumping of wastes and other matter which create hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine life, damage amenities, or interfere with the legitimate uses of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines. However, said law was not sufficient to deal with pervasive emissions and discharges of polluted effluents and wastes from ships.

As such, this proposed measure seeks to address the limitations and weaknesses of PD 976. More specifically, this bill intends to implement the provisions of MARPOL 73/78, an International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by protocol of 1978 and other protocols and annexes related thereto. This measure shall cover all ships, Philippine ships wherever they may be found and foreign-flagged ships.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to streamline jurisdiction, responsibilities, and functions of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). It also provides prohibited acts and the corresponding penalties for violations, both administrative and criminal. The bill also creates the Marine Pollution Adjudication Board.

In view of the foregoing, and to counter the rampant degradation of the marine environment, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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**AN ACT
PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Prevention of Pollution from Ships Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall hereby prevent and control pollution resulting from the operations of ships in order to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

It shall likewise be the policy of the State to implement the Convention as it is herein defined, including its amendments and protocols that have been ratified by the Philippines.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Atmospheric discharges or emissions from ships* refer to any discharge or emission of nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds and other ozone depleting substances when such discharges do not meet the requirements of the Convention.

(b) *Chemical tanker* refers to a ship constructed or adapted for the carriage in bulk of any liquid product listed in the International Bulk Chemical Code or any noxious liquid substance.

(c) *Coastal state* refers to the relationship of the Philippines to a foreign-flagged vessel traversing Philippine waters and its corollary right to exercise jurisdiction and regulatory control over such vessel.

(d) *Convention* refers to:

(1) The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 or MARPOL 73/78;

(2) Protocol I and II of MARPOL 73/78;

(3) Annexes I, II, III, IV, V and VI, their relevant appendices, any technical code referred to, as well as any amendment to any of these documents which may enter into force in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 16 of MARPOL 73/78;

(4) Any subsequent protocol of and amendment to the Convention which the Philippine Government may ratify necessary to advance the purposes of this Act;

(5) Any mandatory Code referred to in the Convention or any subsequent protocol to the Convention which the Philippine Government may ratify or any amendment which may enter into force in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention.

(e) *Discharge* refers to any release, however caused, of harmful substances from a ship, including any escape, disposal, spilling, leaking, pumping, emitting or emptying of such substances, except:

(1) Release of harmful substances directly arising from the exploration, exploitation and associated off-shore processing of sea-bed mineral resources; or

(2) Release of harmful substances for purposes of legitimate scientific research on pollution abatement or control.

(f) *Dirty ballast* refers to water carried in the cargo tank.

(g) *Flag state* refers to the relationship of the Philippines to vessels registered under its flag and the corollary right to exercise jurisdiction and regulatory control over these vessels.

(h) *Foreign-flagged ship* refers to any ship registered in another State or authorized to fly its flag, whether or not it is a State party to MARPOL 73/78, when found in any of the ports, terminal facilities or waters within the jurisdiction or sovereignty of the Philippines.

(i) *Garbage* refers to all kinds of victual, domestic and operational waste, excluding fresh fish and parts thereof, generated during the normal operation of the ship and liable to be disposed of continuously or periodically.

(j) *Harmful substance in package form* refers to those substances which are identified as marine pollutants in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and are held in forms of containment specified for harmful substances in the IMDG Code. Other harmful substances in package form shall include substances identified in accordance with the following criteria as provided in the Convention:

(1) Those which are bio-accumulated to a significant extent and known to produce a hazard to aquatic life or to human health; or

(2) Those which are bio-accumulated with attendant risk to aquatic organisms or to human health with a short retention of the order of one (1) week or less; or

(3) Those which are highly toxic to aquatic life.

(k) *Incident* refers to an event involving the actual or probable discharge into the sea, or emission into the atmosphere, of a harmful substance or effluents containing such a substance.

1 (1) *Marine casualty* refers to any accident or incident of navigation which results in
2 producing a harmful, deleterious or damaging effect upon the marine environment.

3 (m) *Master* refers to any person having command or charge of any ship, including a boat
4 captain.

5 (n) *Noxious liquid substance* refers to any substance identified as such under the
6 relevant chapter of the International Bulk Chemical Code and/or provisionally assessed as such
7 by Annex II of the Convention.

8 (o) *Oil* refers to petroleum in any form including crude oil, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse
9 and refined products, other than petrochemicals which are classified as noxious liquid
10 substances in accordance with Annex II of the Convention, and including substances listed
11 under Annex I of the Convention.

12 (p) *Oily mixture* refers to a mixture with any oil content.

13 (q) *Oil tanker* refers to a ship constructed or adapted primarily to carry oil in bulk in its
14 cargo spaces and includes combination carriers or any other tanker when it is carrying cargo or
15 part cargo of oil in bulk.

16 (r) *Other harmful substance* refers to any substance other than oil, noxious liquid
17 substances, harmful substances in package form, garbage, and sewage, which, if introduced
18 into the sea, is liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life,
19 to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea, and includes, but is not
20 limited to, atmospheric discharges and other substances identified as marine pollutants in the
21 Convention, which may be subject to control pursuant to the provisions of this Act and other
22 relevant environmental laws of the Philippines.

23 (s) *Owner* refers to the person registered as the owner of the ship or who assumes the
24 operation of the ship, or, in the absence of registration, the person owning the ship or the
25 bareboat charterer of the ship, and, in the case of a ship owned by a State and operated by a
26 company which in that State is registered as the ship's operator, "owner" shall include such
27 State.

28 (t) *Philippine ship* refers to any ship registered under the laws of the Philippines and
29 entitled to fly its flag wherever the ship may be found.

30 (u) *Philippine waters* refer to the internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial seas,
31 waters within the contiguous and exclusive economic zones.

32 (v) *Port state* refers to the relationship of the Philippines to a foreign-flagged vessel
33 which may be found in any of its ports, terminal facilities or harbors and its corollary right to
34 exercise jurisdiction and regulatory control over such vessel.

35 (w) *Sewage* refers to:

36 (1) Drainage and other wastes from any form of toilets and urinals;

37 (2) Drainage from medical premises (dispensary, sick bay, etc.) via wash basins,
38 wash tubs and scuppers located in such premises;

- (3) Drainage from spaces containing living animals; or
 - (4) Other waste waters when mixed with the drainages defined above.

(x) *Ship* refers to a vessel of any type operating in the marine environment and includes pleasure crafts, fishing vessels, hydrofoil boats, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating drilling rigs and fixed or floating platforms.

(y) *Undue delay* refers to a delay that is unreasonable and unnecessary in light of the particular conditions of the ship, the ship's cargo, destination and schedule, and in light of the purpose and scope of the investigation, inspection or other cause for detaining the ship.

CHAPTER II

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

SEC. 4. Scope and Application of this Act. — Unless otherwise specified herein, this Act

shall apply to:

(a) All Philippine ships, wherever they may be;

(b) All foreign-flagged ships in Philippine waters whether or not they are registered with parties to the Convention; and

(c) All other ships operating within the Philippine waters: *Provided*, That the provisions of the Convention setting forth technical requirements that ships must meet which are applicable or impractical in Philippine local setting may be suspended or equivalents prescribed therefor upon determination by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), subject to public consultation: *Provided, further*, That nothing herein prevent enactment of any law providing for standards, requirements or regulations higher than those provided for by the Convention.

SEC. 5. Exemptions. – This Act shall not apply to warships, naval auxiliary ships, and man-of-war vessels: *Provided*, That all government or non-commercial ships shall be exempted from the coverage of this Act during emergency response cases: *Provided, however*, That the DOTC, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and other concerned agencies, shall adopt appropriate measures that will ensure that these ships operate, so far as is reasonable and practicable, in a manner consistent with this Act. *Provided, finally*, That the measures will not impair the operational capabilities of these ships.

CHAPTER III

EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION OVER SHIPS

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC). – The DOTC shall be the principal government agency responsible for the overall implementation and enforcement of this Act and any requirement of the Convention. For this purpose, the Secretary of the DOTC shall exercise the following general powers and functions:

(a) Oversee the implementation of this Act and coordinate the efforts of concerned agencies;

(b) Formulate a comprehensive program to prevent or minimize marine pollution from ships in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Energy (DOE), port authorities and other relevant agencies and stakeholders;

(c) Constitute the Marine Pollution Adjudication Board (MPAB);

(d) Reorganize or streamline the functions of its different line, staff, and attached or bureaus, authorities, or agencies for purposes of the effective and efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act; and

(e) Exercise powers and perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Maritime Industry Authority. – The Maritime

Industry Authority (MARINA) shall have the sole and exclusive authority and responsibility to ensure that environmental and pollution regulations and standards for the construction and equipment of Philippine vessels, before they are allowed to fly the Philippine flag, and/or as part of their registration, are complied with. For this purpose, the MARINA shall have the following duties and functions:

(a) Ensure that all Philippine ships are constructed and equipped with any fitting, material, appliance or apparatus deemed appropriate and effective for the prevention of any discharge or emission of harmful substances in consonance with the requirements of the Convention;

(b) Survey all Philippine ships for purposes of the provisions of the immediately preceding paragraph, which function may be delegated to MARINA-recognized organizations through a deputation process to be formulated pursuant to this Act: *Provided*, That, except for direct replacement, no change in the ship's structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and materials shall be made without the approval of the MARINA;

(c) Issue the required statutory certificates to all Philippine ships;

(d) Review and revise, whenever appropriate, the existing system of certification, survey, inspection and monitoring of ships, with respect to pollution prevention to ensure efficiency and

1 transparency, consistent with the overall management of the maritime sector and in accordance
2 with the requirements of the Convention;

3 (e) Conduct surveys and issue certificates or endorsements to foreign ships registered with
4 another State party, if so requested by a State which is a party to the Convention;

5 (f) Require ships to keep and maintain relevant record books in accordance with the
6 Convention;

7 (g) Suspend, withdraw or revoke any certificate it may have issued to any Philippine ship
8 found not compliant with this Act and with rules and regulations promulgated therefor;

9 (h) Accredit, appoint and authorize recognized organizations to act on its behalf and, for
10 this purpose, execute the requisite memorandum of agreement defining the extent of powers that
11 may be exercised by the recognized organizations including the following:

12 (1) Perform and conduct statutory surveys on Philippine ships;

13 (2) Require repairs on a Philippine ship pursuant to findings resulting from port state
14 inspection;

15 (3) Carry out surveys requested by port state authorities; and

16 (4) Withdraw any statutory certificates if appropriate corrective action is not taken
17 by the Philippine ships.

18 (i) Provide the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with a list of recognized
19 organizations authorized to act on behalf of the Philippines, together with the specific
20 responsibilities they are empowered to perform and the conditions of the authority delegated to
21 them;

22 (j) Impose, fix, collect and receive, in accordance with the duly approved schedules, fees
23 necessary for the survey and certification of ships pursuant to this Section. The fees shall be
24 imposed and collected in order to recover the cost for rendering the service and shall not be used
25 in order to impose a penalty: *Provided*, That excessive fees, multiple fees and duplicative fees
26 shall at all times be avoided;

27 (k) Issue rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Section:
28 *Provided*, That the rules and regulations shall be in consonance with the Convention and shall
29 not change or in any way amend or be contrary to the intent and purposes of this Act;

30 (l) Provide its officers and personnel with adequate training and continuing education to
31 ensure an efficient and professional pollution regulatory machinery;

32 (m)Impose and collect fees and charges in connection with the performance of its
33 functions under this Section, which fees and charges shall accrue to the Marine Environmental
34 Management Fund (MEMF) established under Section 42 of this Act; *Provided*, That the fees
35 shall be imposed and collected in order to recover the cost for rendering the service and shall
36 not be used in order to impose a penalty: *Provided, further*, That excessive fees, multiple fees
37 and duplicative fees shall at all times be avoided;

- 1 (n) Hear, adjudicate and impose such fines and penalties on Philippine ships which shall
2 fail to comply with the rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section; and
3 (o) Exercise such powers and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry
4 out its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

5 **SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Philippine Coast Guard.** – Unless otherwise
6 provided under Section 9 of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shall have the sole and
7 exclusive authority and responsibility to enforce environmental and pollution regulations and
8 standards to all ships which may be operating within Philippine waters, or in ports, terminal
9 facilities or harbors. It shall include the authority to board and inspect ships to ensure
10 compliance with such regulations and standards.

11 For this purpose, the PCG shall have the following duties and functions:

12 (a) Ensure that all ships are operated and certificated in accordance with the requirements
13 of the Convention;

14 (b) Inspect the certificates and record books required of any ship pursuant to Section 12 of
15 this Act;

16 (c) Conduct a physical inspection of the ship if there should be clear grounds for believing
17 that the condition of the ship or its equipment does not correspond substantially with what is
18 stated in the ship's certificates;

19 (d) Investigate any complaint involving the alleged violation of the Convention committed
20 by a ship regardless of source of the complaint or the location of the violation and request the
21 submission of evidence which the complainant may have regarding the alleged violation;

22 (e) Request the assistance of any other State whose cooperation may be useful to the
23 investigation against a ship;

24 (f) Detain a ship pursuant to Section 16 of this Act;

25 (g) Require a ship to proceed to the nearest repair yard and ensure that the ship does not
26 leave until it can proceed to sea without posing an unreasonable threat or harm to the marine
27 environment;

28 (h) Initiate proceedings against any person for violation of this Act when sufficient
29 evidence exists with respect to the alleged violation;

30 (i) Inform the complainant and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the
31 results of the investigation and any action taken against the ship operator of the Philippine ship
32 in respect of any alleged violation;

33 (j) Deny entry of a foreign-flagged ship to any Philippine port or terminal facility if it
34 fails to comply with the requirements of the Convention;

35 (k) Coordinate with, and inform, the diplomatic representative of the State, or the flag
36 State administration, of any violation of the foreign ship and any action taken against the ship;

1 (l) Inspect, verify and investigate a ship if it has discharged any harmful substance into
2 the marine environment under any of the following circumstances:

3 (1) It has reasonable grounds to believe that a discharge has occurred in Philippine
4 waters;

5 (2) It receives a report from another coastal State; or;

6 (3) It receives a request from the flag State;

7 (m) Forward the report of any violation committed by the ship with respect to any
8 discharge of harmful substances into the marine environment, to the ship's flag state
9 administration, together with any evidence it may have;

10 (n) Immediately inform any affected coastal State of the discharge;

11 (o) Ensure that the ship is not unduly delayed or detained;

12 (p) Order into port any ship found in the territorial seas if there are clear grounds to
13 believe that the ship has discharged harmful substances into the marine environment;

14 (q) Establish procedures for reporting incidents involving any actual or probable discharge
15 or emission which may be in violation of this Act and of the requirement of the Convention
16 consistent with the reporting requirements under this Act;

17 (r) Require all ships and aircrafts registered under the Philippine flag to immediately
18 report any marine casualty which they witnessed while navigating;

19 (s) Upon inquiry or investigation, cause or recommend regulatory or other appropriate
20 actions to be taken in connection with any violation of the provisions of this Act;

21 (t) Cooperate with the government of other States which are members of international
22 organizations on the prevention of pollution from ships concerning the detection of violations
23 and enforcement of this Act using all appropriate and practicable measures of detection and
24 environmental monitoring, adequate procedures for reporting and accumulation of evidence;

25 (u) Provide its officers and personnel with adequate training and continuing education to
26 ensure an efficient and professional pollution regulatory machinery;

27 (v) Adopt a continuing information campaign on marine resources protection aimed at
28 developing public awareness of the health hazards and other adverse effects of ship pollution;

29 (w) Administer the MEMF;

30 (x) Issue such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act:
31 *Provided*, That the rules and regulations shall be in consonance with the Convention and shall
32 not change or in any way amend or be contrary to the intent and purposes of this Act; and

33 (y) Exercise powers and perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out its
34 duties and responsibilities under this Act.

35
36 **SEC. 9. Role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).** – For
37 purposes of this Act, the DENR shall have the following powers and functions:

1 (a) Provide technical assistance on pollution prevention to the concerned government
2 agencies in the implementation of this Act;

3 (b) Establish guidelines for the identification of harmful substances in packaged form in
4 accordance with the guidelines and listings provided by the IMDG Code in coordination with
5 the PCG, PPA and other port authorities;

6 (c) Set effluent and emission standards for ships in accordance with the requirements of
7 the Convention.

8 (d) For floating craft, drilling rigs and fixed or floating platforms, and vessels which
9 primarily operate or undertake business, commercial or industrial activities while anchored, the
10 DENR shall enforce, in coordination with the PCG, the applicable provisions of Presidential
11 Decree No. 1586 otherwise known as Environmental Impact Statement System Law, Republic
12 Act No. 8749 otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act, and Republic Act No. 9275
13 otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act; and,

14 Monitor, in coordination with the PCG, hazardous and radioactive wastes being
15 transported by ships in the country, and prevent the disposal thereof and/or the entry of ships
16 carrying the same.

17

18 **CHAPTER IV**

19 **PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

20

21 **SEC. 10. Prohibition of Discharge or Emission of Harmful Substances.** – It shall be
22 unlawful for any person to discharge or emit the following substances from any Philippine ship,
23 or from any other ship while it is within Philippine waters:

- 24 (a) Oil, whether carried as cargo or as bunker;
25 (b) Oily mixture, whether generated from cargo operations or from machinery spaces;
26 (c) Noxious liquid substances carried in bulk;
27 (d) Harmful substances in packaged form;
28 (e) Sewage;
29 (f) Garbage; and
30 (g) Other harmful substances, whether generated during the operation of the ship or not.

31

32 The provisions of this section shall not apply in the following cases:

33 (1) The discharge or emission is necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a
34 ship and those on board or saving life at sea; or

35 (2) The discharge results from unintentional damage to the ship or its equipment,
36 and all reasonable precautions have been taken after the occurrence of the damage or the
37 discovery of the discharge for the purpose of preventing or minimizing the discharge, unless the

1 master, owner or agent of the ship acted either with intent to cause damage or recklessly and
2 with knowledge that damage would probably result; or

3 (3) The discharge is for the purpose of combating specific pollution incidents in
4 order to minimize the damage from pollution.

5 For this purpose, the DOTC shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
6 immediately preceding paragraph as regards its application in general, or with respect to the
7 following considerations in consonance with the requirements of the Convention:

- 8 (1) Classes of ships;
- 9 (2) Descriptions of harmful substances;
- 10 (3) Disposal or discharge of these substances in prescribed circumstances; and
- 11 (4) Areas of the sea.

12
13 **SEC. 11. *Immediate Report of Discharges of Harmful Substances.*** – If any actual or
14 probable discharge of any harmful substance occurs from any Philippine ship into any part of
15 the sea or atmosphere, the master shall immediately report the incident to the nearest affected
16 coastal State and to the DOTC.

17 If any actual or probable discharge of any harmful substance occurs from any Philippine
18 ship or foreign-flagged ship while it is operating in Philippine waters, the master of the ship
19 shall immediately report the occurrence to the PCG. The PCG shall immediately inform any
20 affected coastal State. If a foreign-flagged ship is involved, the PCG shall immediately inform
21 the flag State of the ship.

22 If the master of the ship fails to report the occurrence, or the discharge occurs in
23 circumstances where the ship has been abandoned, the owner, charterer, manager and operator
24 of the ship or an agent of the owner, charterer, manager and operator of the ship shall without
25 delay, report the incident to the DOTC.

26
27 **SEC.12. *Record Books.*** – Philippine ships and all ships within Philippine waters shall
28 maintain on board record books in the English language, whether as part of their official
29 logbook or not. For this purpose:

30 (a) Every oil tanker which is one hundred fifty (150) gross tonnage or more and every
31 ship, other than an oil tanker which is four hundred (400) gross tonnage or more shall be
32 provided with, and shall be required to maintain, an Oil Report Book Part I for Machinery
33 Space Operations in accordance with the requirements of the Convention;

34 (b) Every oil tanker which is one hundred fifty (150) gross tonnage or more shall be
35 provided with, and shall be required to maintain, an Oil Record Book Part II for Cargo/Ballast
36 Operations in accordance with the requirements of the Convention;

37 (c) Every chemical tanker shall be provided with, and shall be required to maintain, a
38 Cargo Record Book in accordance with the requirements of the Convention; and

1 (d) Every ship which is four hundred (400) gross tonnage or more and every ship which
2 is certified to carry fifteen (15) persons or more shall be provided with, and shall be required to
3 maintain a Shipboard Garbage Management Plan in accordance with the requirements of the
4 Convention.

5

6 **SEC. 13. *Reception Facilities.*** – Port authorities shall ensure that public and private
7 ports and terminal ports in the Philippines are appropriately and adequately provided with
8 facilities to meet the needs of ships for the reception of its oily residues, oily mixtures, dirty
9 ballast, tank washing water, noxious liquid substances, sewage, garbage, ozone depleting
10 substances, and equipment containing such substances, and for cleaning of exhaust gases in
11 consonance with this Act and the requirements of the Convention.

12 For this purpose, port authorities shall: (a) determine and establish the most effective
13 and efficient means for meeting the internationally-accepted requirements with respect to
14 reception facilities in public and private ports without causing ships undue delay; (b) formulate
15 and implement an integrated waste management system for the use and operation of reception
16 and treatment facilities in coordination with the DENR and the PCG; and (c) coordinate with
17 the DENR and concerned local government units (LGUs) on the proper handling and disposal
18 of wastes collected at ports.

19 Port authorities may accredit or enter into agreements with private entities in relation to
20 the establishment and operation of reception and treatment facilities upon verification of
21 compliance with standards established for said facilities by the DENR and PCG.

22

23 **SEC. 14. *Use of Reception Facilities.*** – All ships entering or availing the services of
24 ports, terminals and repair ports shall use reception facilities established pursuant to the
25 immediately preceding section, subject to the integrated waste management system to be
26 established by port authorities.

27

28 **SEC. 15. *Denial of Entry.*** – Should there be a probability that a foreign-flagged ship
29 has violated or may violate the requirements of this Act, or the rules and regulations
30 promulgated therefor, the ship may be denied entry to any port in the Philippines.

31

32 **SEC. 16. *Detention of Ships.*** – Ships shall be detained in any of the following cases:

33 (a) The fine or fines imposed on ship, owner or operator of the ship pursuant to Chapter 5
34 of this Act, except those imposed for violations of administrative regulations under Sections 27,
35 28 and 29 of this Act, have not been paid;

36 (b) The condition of the ship does not substantially correspond with what is stated in the
37 ship's certificates;

38 (c) The ship does not hold valid ship certificates;

1 (d) There are reasonable or probable grounds to believe that:

2 (1) The ship incurred a pollution cost liability under Section 33 of this Act;

3 (2) The ship violated any of the requirements of this Act or rules and regulations
4 promulgated therefore; and

5 (3) The ship caused harm or damage or exhibited a reasonable environmental threat to
6 the marine environment.

7 A ship detained under paragraph (d) of this section may be released after the owner of
8 the ship posts with the Marine Pollution Adjudication Board (MPAB) established under Section
9 35 of this Act, an adequate cash bond, insurance guaranty, or protection indemnity guaranty or a
10 combination thereof, as approved by the MPAB, to cover the liability of the owner, master or
11 agent of the ship under this Act.

12

13 CHAPTER V

14 FINES, PENALTIES AND LIABILITIES

15

16 **SEC. 17. *Imposition of Fines, Penalties and Liabilities.*** – Except for fines and
17 penalties for violations of administrative regulations under Sections 27, 28 and 29 of this Act,
18 all fines and penalties imposed for violations of the provisions of this Chapter, or the Philippine
19 Clean Air Act and the Philippine Clean Water Act, whenever applicable, shall be imposed by
20 the MPAB established pursuant to Section 35 of this Act.

21 For this purpose, an appropriate fine rating system shall be established by the MPAB,
22 taking into consideration degree of willfulness, negligence or recalcitrance of the master, owner
23 or operator of the ship, their history of noncompliance and the gravity of the damage caused by
24 the ship to the environment.

25

26 **SEC. 18. *Discharge or Emission of Harmful Substances.*** – A ship which is found to
27 have discharged or emitted harmful substances under Section 10 of this Act shall be liable to the
28 following fines:

29 (a) In the case of a Philippine ship, unless the discharge or emission is committed and
30 appropriately fined in other States' jurisdiction:

31 (1) For oil or oily mixture under paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 10 of this Act – not
32 less than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) but not more than Ten million pesos
33 (Php10,000,000.00);

34 (2) For noxious liquid substances or harmful substances in packaged form under
35 paragraphs (c) and (d) of Section 10 of this Act – not less than Two hundred thousand pesos
36 (Php200,000.00) but not more than Ten million pesos (Php10,000,000.00);

(3) For sewage or garbage under paragraphs (e) and (f) of Section 10 of this Act – not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos (Php2,000,000.00); and

(4) For other harmful substances as defined in this Act – not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) but not more than Ten million pesos (Php10,000,000.00).

(b) In the case of a foreign-flagged ship:

(1) For oil or oily mixture under paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 10 of this Act – not less than Fifty thousand US dollars (US\$50,000) but not more than Five million US dollars (US\$5,000,000), or its equivalent in Philippine pesos;

(2) For noxious liquid substances or harmful substances in packaged form under paragraphs (c) and (d) of Section 10 of this Act – not less than Fifty thousand US dollars (US\$50,000.00) but not more than Three million US dollars (US\$3,000,000.00), or its equivalent in Philippine pesos;

(3) For sewage or garbage under paragraphs (e) and (f) of Section 10 of this Act – not less than Ten thousand US dollars (US\$10,000.00) but not more than One million US dollars (US\$1,000,000.00), or its equivalent in Philippine pesos; and

(4) For other harmful substances as defined in this Act – not less than Fifty thousand US Dollars (US\$50,000.00) but not more than Five million US dollars (US\$5,000,000.00), or its equivalent in Philippine pesos.

Any person directly or negligently responsible for the discharge or emission into Philippine waters or atmosphere shall be liable to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) and, whenever appropriate, to the costs of any measure reasonably taken in removing or eliminating the discharged or emitted substances.

Unless the fines and penalties established under Environmental Impact Statement System Law, the Philippine Clean Air Act and the Philippine Clean Water Act are higher, the fines set in this Act shall be imposed for floating craft, drilling rigs and fixed or floating platforms, and vessels which primarily operate or undertake business, commercial or industrial activities while anchored.

SEC. 19. Failure to Maintain Record Books. – (a) A ship which operates or is allowed to operate without record books required under Section 12 of this Act or fails to maintain said record books on board shall be liable to a fine of Two hundred thousand pesos (P^h200,000.00).

(b) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 12 of this Act or the rules and regulations promulgated therefor shall be liable to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00).

1 (c) Any person who makes any false or misleading entry in said record books carried or
2 kept under Section 12 of this Act shall be liable to a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos
3 (Php10,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00).

4

5 **SEC. 20. Refusal to Use Reception Facilities.** – A ship which unjustifiably refuses to
6 use reception facilities shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos
7 (Php10,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00).

8

9 **SEC. 21. Absence of and Noncompliance with Shipboard Garbage Management.** – If
10 a ship operates without a shipboard garbage management plan as required under the Convention
11 or fails to operate in accordance with such plan, it shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than
12 Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos
13 (Php200,000.00).

14

15 **SEC. 22. Unauthorized Change in the Ship's Structure, Equipment, Fittings,
16 Arrangements and Materials.** – Unless authorized under this Act or the Convention, any ship
17 owner who made or caused any change in the structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements, and
18 materials of the ship without the approval of the MARINA shall be punished by a fine of not
19 less than Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand Pesos
20 (Php100,000.00).

21

22 **SEC. 23. Operating Without the Required Certification.** – A ship which is operated or
23 is allowed to operate without the certification required pursuant to this Act or the Convention
24 shall be detained and shall be liable to a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos
25 (Php10,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00).

26

27 **SEC. 24. Violation of Detention Order.** – A ship which proceeds to sea in violation of a
28 detention order issued pursuant to Section 16 hereof shall be liable to the following fines:

29 (a) Philippine ship – not less than Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) but not more than
30 One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00); and

31 (b) Foreign-flagged ship – not less than Five thousand US dollars (US\$5,000.00) but not
32 more than Five million US dollars (US\$5,000,000.00), or its equivalent in Philippine pesos.

33

34 **SEC. 25. Continuing Violation.** – a ship, which continuously discharges or emits
35 harmful substances in violation of Section 10 of this Act, shall be held liable for the fines
36 stipulated under Section 18. Likewise, it shall be made liable to pay an additional fine of not
37 less than Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos

1 (Php200,000.00) for every day or part thereof during which the violation continues to be
2 committed.

3

4 **SEC. 26. *Obstruction of Investigation.*** – Any person who shall, without justifiable
5 reason, obstruct or hamper the conduct of an investigation of a violation of this Act shall be
6 liable to pay a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) but not more than One
7 hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00).

8

9 **SEC. 27. *Neglect of Duty.*** – Any government official or employee charged with the
10 responsibility of enforcing any provision of this Act, who is found guilty of gross negligence of
11 duty, shall be dismissed from the service with prejudice to reinstatement. Neglect of duty shall
12 be prosecuted in accordance with existing laws.

13 **SEC. 28. *Connivance in Violation of this Act.*** – Any government official or employee
14 charged with the responsibility of enforcing and/or implementing any provision of this Act who
15 connives with the ship owner, master or operator of a ship or any person to violate, or permits
16 the commission of, any violation of this Act shall be dismissed from the service and shall be
17 jointly and severally liable with any such person found to be liable for the fine imposed
18 pursuant to this Act.

19

20 **SEC. 29. *Violations of Administrative Regulations.*** – Any person who commits or
21 omits acts in violation of rules and regulations issued by concerned agencies pursuant to this
22 Act, unless the violations are otherwise covered under Sections 19 to 28 hereof, shall be liable
23 to the following fines:

24 (a) First violation – a fine of not less than One thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) but not
25 more than One hundred thousand pesos (Phpl00,000.00);

26 (b) Second violation – a fine more than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) but
27 not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00); and

28 (c) Third violation – a fine more than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) but
29 not more than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) and the suspension of vessel safety
30 certificate for six (6) months to one (1) year.

31 The concerned agency shall promulgate rules and regulations for the summary
32 imposition of administrative sanctions, subject to due process, for failure to comply with any
33 order, decision, rules or regulations of the Department issued pursuant to this Act. All
34 administrative fines imposed by the concerned agency pursuant to this Act shall accrue to the
35 MEMF.

36

37 **SEC. 30. *Intentional Violation.*** – In case the discharge or emission of harmful
38 substances or toxic pollutants identified pursuant to Republic Act No. 6969, otherwise known as

1 the “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990”, is in toxic
2 amounts or is deliberate and willful, in violation of Section 10 of this Act, the offender, without
3 prejudice to the civil liability that may be imposed, shall be accordingly liable for a fine or
4 imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, but not more than twelve (12) years, or both, at the
5 discretion of the court:

6 (a) Philippine ship – not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than
7 Twenty million pesos (Php20,000,000.00); and

8 (b) Foreign-flagged ship – not less than Fifty thousand US dollars (US\$50,000.00) but not
9 more than Eight million US dollars (US\$8,000,000.00), or its equivalent in Philippine Pesos.

10 **SEC. 31. Automatic Adjustment of Penalties and Fines.** – The fines prescribed in this
11 Act shall be automatically increased by ten percent (10%) every three (3) years from the
12 effectivity of this Act.

13
14 **SEC. 32. Clean-up Operations.** – In the event harmful substances under Section 10 of
15 this Act are discharged or emitted from any ship into Philippine waters or into any part of the
16 sea or waters outside Philippine waters but such substances subsequently flowed or drifted into
17 Philippine waters, or into the Philippine atmosphere, the PCG, in coordination with other
18 agencies concerned, shall be responsible for the cleanup and containment of discharged
19 substances, and the prevention or mitigation of the resulting damage to the environment, human
20 health, tourist and fishing industries, public and private properties: *Provided*, The necessary
21 initial cleanup and containment shall be made by the owner of the ship which discharged or
22 caused the discharge of such harmful substances.

23
24 **SEC. 33. Cost Liability for the Discharge or Emission of Harmful Substances.** – The
25 owner of the ship liable for the discharge of harmful substances under Section 32 hereof shall be
26 primarily responsible to pay for the following pollution costs:

27 (a) Reasonable expenses that the PCG and other agencies concerned may reasonably
28 undertake or has undertaken pursuant to the immediately preceding section; and

29 (b) Environmental damages and/or other reasonable measures taken for environmental
30 rehabilitation.

31 In case the responsibility for the above pollution cost liability falls on two (2) or more
32 ships, and the liability of each of the owners thereof cannot be reasonably distinguished from
33 that of the other, each of the owners shall be jointly and severally liable for the whole amount of
34 the cost.

35 Republic Act No. 9483, otherwise known as the “Oil Pollution Compensation Act of
36 2007”, shall govern the civil liability for the discharge of oil, including the oily mixture,
37 discharged as part of the incident under the said Act.

Reimbursement of the cost incurred shall be made to the MEMF or to such other funds where disbursements were sourced.

SEC. 34. Informer's Reward to Persons Instrumental in the Discovery of Violations of this Act. – Any person with the exception of the officials or employees of the DOTC, the DENR, the LGUs, the MARINA, the PCG or port authority or their relatives within the sixth degree of consanguinity, who voluntarily gives definite and sworn information, not yet in the possession of the MARINA or the PCG, leading to the discovery of the violation of this Act and resulting in the imposition of fines or fees, or conviction of the guilty party of any of the fines or penalties, shall be rewarded in a sum equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the fines or fees recovered.

CHAPTER VI

MARINE POLLUTION ADJUDICATION BOARD

SEC. 35. Marine Pollution Adjudication Board. – There is hereby constituted a Marine Pollution Adjudication Board (MPAB) vested with quasi-judicial powers under the DOTC Secretary. The Board shall have sole and exclusive jurisdiction over all marine pollution cases as provided for in Section 17 of this Act. It shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) Secretary of the DOTC, or his duly authorized permanent representative, as Chairperson;
 - (b) Secretary of the DENR, or his duly authorized permanent representative;
 - (c) Administrator of the MARINA, or his duly authorized permanent representative;
 - (d) Commandant of the PCG, or his duly authorized permanent representative;
 - (e) General Manager of the PPA, or his duly authorized permanent representative;
 - (f) A permanent representative endorsed by the Association of Masters and Mates;
 - (g) A permanent representative endorsed by the Marine Engineers Association;
 - (h) A member of the Philippine Bar duly endorsed by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP); and,
 - (i) A member of the Sea Transport Association.

The grant of honoraria to members of the MPAB shall be subject to existing laws, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 36. Powers and Functions. – The MPAB shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To hear and decide cases falling under their jurisdiction pursuant to Section 17 of this Act;

1 (b) To conduct hearings on all matters within its jurisdiction, proceed to hear and
2 determine the disputes in the absence of any party thereto who has been summoned or served
3 with notice to appear, conduct its proceedings or any part thereof in public or in private, adjourn
4 its hearings at any time and place, refer technical matters or accounts to an expert and to accept
5 the experts' reports thereon as evidence after hearing of the parties upon due notice, direct
6 parties to be joined in or excluded from the proceedings, correct, amend or waive any error,
7 defect or irregularity, whether in substance or in form, give all such directions as it may deem
8 necessary or expedient in the determination of the dispute before it and dismiss the dispute as
9 part thereof, where it is trivial or where further proceedings by the Commission are not
10 necessary or desirable;

11 (c) To promulgate and adopt its own rules of procedure. It shall not be strictly bound by
12 the Rules of Court but shall proceed to hear and decide all cases, disputes or controversies in a
13 most expeditious manner, employing all reasonable means to ascertain the facts of every case in
14 accordance with justice and equity and the merits of the case;

15 (d) To summon witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, require submission of reports,
16 compel the production of books and documents and answers to interrogatories and issue
17 *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* and to enforce its writs through sheriffs
18 or other duly deputized officers;

19 (e) To punish direct and indirect contempt in the same manner and subject to the same
20 penalties as provided in the Rules of Court;

21 (f) To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it which, if
22 not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any of the parties to the case
23 or seriously affect social or economic stability;

24 (g) To issue orders and decisions to compel compliance with the provisions of this Act
25 and the Convention and issuances or decisions of the MPAB;

26 (h) To deputize in writing or request assistance of appropriate government agencies or
27 instrumentalities for the purpose of enforcing its decisions; and

28 (i) To issue an *ex parte* order directing the discontinuance of discharge of substances that
29 cause marine pollution, or the temporary suspension or cessation of operation of the equipment,
30 project or activity and other acts causing environmental degradation, generating such pollutants
31 or wastes, without the necessity of a previous public hearing: *Provided*, That such *ex parte*
32 order shall be issued only in case of immediate threat to life or property, public health, safety or
33 welfare or to animal or plant life, or exceeds the allowable environmental standards. The *ex
parte* order shall be immediately executory and shall remain in force and effect until the same is
35 modified or lifted by the MPAB.

36
37 **SEC. 37. Finality of Determination.** – Any case or controversy before the MPAB shall
38 be decided by majority of all its members within thirty (30) days after it is submitted for

1 resolution. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be allowed. Unless an appeal is
2 perfected and a cash bond equivalent to the fine imposed is deposited, any order, decision or
3 ruling issued by the MPAB shall be final and executory.

4

5 **SEC. 38. Appeals.** – Any decision, order or judgment of the MPAB may be appealed to
6 the Court of Appeals by *certiorari* within fifteen (15) days from receipt of a copy thereof:
7 *Provided*, That cease and desist orders shall be immediately executory.

8

CHAPTER VII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9

10

11 **SEC. 39. Ship Pollution Prevention Program.** – The DOTC, in coordination with
12 concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall establish a Prevention of Ship Pollution Program to
13 enhance government implementation of this Act particularly on: (a) awareness building and
14 capacity building; (b) data banking; (c) development of reception facilities; (d) marine
15 environment protection; and (e) research.

16

17 **SEC. 40. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department and the concerned
18 agencies shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act within one (1)
19 year after the enactment of this Act. The proposed implementing rules and regulations shall be
20 subjected to public consultations with affected sectors. The DOTC shall ensure that functions
21 of the implementing agencies and rules and regulations promulgated prior to and after the
22 effectivity of this Act are devoid of any duplication or inconsistency.

23

24 The rules and regulations issued by other government agencies and instrumentalities for
25 the prevention of marine pollution not inconsistent with and appropriate to the implementation
26 of this Act shall supplement the rules and regulations issued by the Department pursuant to this
Act.

27

28 **SEC. 41. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC).** – The Joint
29 Congressional Oversight Committee created under Section 33 of Republic Act No. 9275 or the
30 “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004” shall also monitor the implementation of this Act and
31 review the implementing rules and regulations promulgated by the DOTC.

32

33 The JCOC shall exist for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of
34 this Act and thereafter, its oversight functions shall be exercised by the Committee on
35 Environment of the Senate and the Committee on Ecology of the House of Representatives,
acting separately.

1 The Secretariat of the Congressional Oversight Committee shall come from the
2 secretariat personnel of the Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives
3 comprising the JCOC.

4

5 **SEC. 42. Marine Environmental Management Fund (MEMF).** – There is hereby
6 established a Marine Environmental Management Fund (MEMF) to be administered by the
7 MPAB. The Oil Pollution Management Fund (OPMF) created under Section 22 of Republic Act
8 No. 9483, otherwise known as the “Oil Pollution Compensation Act of 2007”, is hereby
9 abolished. All balances, including the liabilities incurred by the OPMF, shall be transferred to
10 the MEMF. The MEMF shall be sourced from the following:

- 11 (a) Within one (1) year following the effectivity of the Act, contributions of owners and
12 operators of tankers and barges hauling oil and for petroleum products in Philippine waterways
13 and coast wise shipping routes consisting of five centavos (5c) per liter for every transshipment
14 of oil made by a tanker barge or tanker hauler based on the volume it loaded for the purpose of
15 transshipment regardless of its origin or destination; Thereafter, reasonable amount of
16 contribution shall be jointly determined by MARINA, other concerned government agencies,
17 and representatives from the Owners of tankers barges, tankers haulers, and ship hauling oil
18 and/or petroleum products. In determining the amount of contribution, the purposes for which
19 the fund was set up shall always be considered;
- 20 (b) Fees, charges and fines imposed pursuant to this Act and Republic Act No. 9483;
- 21 (c) Donations, endowments, grants and contributions; and
- 22 (d) Amounts specifically appropriated for the MEMF under the annual General
23 Appropriations Act.

24 The MEMF shall be utilized for the following activities:

25 (1) Containment, removal and clean-up operations of the PCG in all oil pollution
26 cases; and

27 (2) Enforcement and monitoring activities of the MARINA, the PCG and port
28 authorities of the Department and other relevant agencies: *Provided*, That ninety percent (90%)
29 of the funds shall be maintained annually for the containment, removal and clean-up operations
30 of the PCG in all cases of pollution from ships: *Provided, further*, That in no case shall the
31 MEMF be used to fund personal services expenditures except for the compensation of those
32 involved in clean-up operations.

33

34 **SEC. 43. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
35 shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the concerned agencies. Thereafter,
36 such sums as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of this Act shall be included
37 in the General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 44. Separability Clause.** – In the event that any provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional, the validity of the remainder shall not be affected thereby.
3

4 **SEC. 45. Repealing Clause.** – The fifth paragraph of Section 28 of the Philippine Clean
5 Water Act and Section 22 of the Oil Pollution are hereby repealed. The Toxic Substances and
6 Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, the Marine Pollution Control Decree of 1974 and
7 1976 are hereby amended and modified accordingly. All laws, decrees, rules and regulations
8 and executive orders contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
9 accordingly.

10 **SEC. 46. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,