7.2 Navigation

APPENDIX III Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)

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| **a.a** | **Area** | **Area’s Description** | Associated Protective Measures (APMs) | MEPC Endorsement |
| 1 | The Great Barrier Reef (Australia) | It is the world's largest coral reef system, located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland, Australia. | * Mandatory ship reporting system (REEFREP) * IMO-recommended Australian pilotage system * Australia’s compulsory pilotage system when navigating the Torres Strait is recommended rather than required, based on the principle of navigation freedom under UNCLOS, Section 2. See IMO Resolutions MEPC.133(53) and MEPC.268(68). | Resolution MEPC.44(30) September 1990 |
| 2 | The Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago (Cuba) | Sabana-Camagüey is an archipelago that lines Cuba’s north-central Atlantic coast. | * Traffic separation schemes off Costa de Matanzas, in the Old Bahama Channel, and the Punta Maternillos * Discharge prohibition * Area to be avoided in the access routes to the ports of Matanzas and Cardenas | Resolution MEPC.74(40) September 1997 |
| 3 | Malpelo Island (Colombia) | It is a small island in the East Pacific Ocean, about 500 km west of the Colombian mainland. | * Areato be avoided by all fishing vessels and large ships in excess of 500 gt. | Resolution MEPC.97(47) March 2002 |
| 4 | The sea around the Florida Keys (United States) | The Florida Keys are a coral cay archipelago located off the southern coast of Florida, US. | * Mandatory no anchoring areas in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve and the Tortugas Bank in the Florida Keys * Areasto be avoided off the Florida coast | Resolution [MEPC.98(47)](https://www.register-iri.com/wp-content/uploads/MEPC.9847.pdf) March 2002 |
| 5 | The Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) | It stretches from the Netherlands, past the river estuaries of Germany, to its northern boundary in Denmark along a total coastline of some 500 km | * Existing protective measures, including but not limited to: mandatory ship reporting systems; deep water routes, traffic separation schemes, recommended and mandatory pilotage, MARPOL Special Area, and other national measures | Resolution MEPC.98(47) March 2002 |
| 6 | Paracas National Reserve (Peru) | Is a protected area located in the region of Ica, Peru. | * Area to be avoided (by ships carrying hydrocarbons in bulk) * Traffic separation scheme in the approaches to Puerto Pisco | Resolution MEPC.106(49) July 2003 |
| 7 | Western European Waters | The area covers the western coasts of UK, Ireland, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, from the Shetland Islands in North to Cape S. Vicente in South, the English Channel and its approaches. | * Areas to be avoided, routing measures and imposed a mandatory ship reporting system which applies to all oil tankers over 600 gt. | Resolution MEPC.121(52) October 2004 |
| 8 | Torres Strait (as an extension of the Great Barrier Reef) | It lies to the north and north-east of Cape York and separates Australia and Papua New Guinea. | * Two-way shipping route through the Torres Strait * IMO-recommended Australian pilotage system | Resolution MEPC.133(53) July 2005 |
| 9 | Canary Islands (Spain) | The Canary Islands are a Spanish archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean, some 100 km off the Western Coast of Africa. | * Mandatory ship reporting system (CANREP) * Traffic separation schemes * Five areas to be avoided: off Lanzarote Island; off the island of Tenerife; off the island of Grand Canary; off La Palma Island; and off the island of El Hierro | Resolution MEPC.134(53) July 2005 |
| 10 | The Galapagos Archipelago (Ecuador) | Is a province of Ecuador in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 973 km off the west coast of South America. | * Recommended tracks, mandatory as a condition of port entry * Mandatoryship reporting system (GALREP) * Area to be avoided | Resolution MEPC.135(53) July 2005 |
| 11 | The Baltic Sea area (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden) | The Baltic Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by nine coastal states. | * Existing protective measures, including but not limited to: existing routing and pilotage systems; mandatory ship reporting systems; MARPOL Special Area; SOx ECA. * Traffic separation scheme and associated routing measures in the South-west Baltic Sea * Deep-water route of Gotland Island * Areas to be avoided in the Southern Baltic Sea | Resolution MEPC.136(53) July 2005 |
| 12 | The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (United States) | It encompasses 1,510,000 km2 of ocean waters and ten islands and atolls of North-western Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean. | * Mandatory ship reporting system (CORAL SHIPREP) * Six areas to be avoided | Resolution MEPC.171(57) April 2008 |
| 13 | The Strait of Bonifacio (France, Italy) | It separates Corsica and Sardinia and enables passage from the Sea of Sardinia in the west to the Tyrrhenian Sea in the east. Its width varies from 8 to 10 nautical miles; maximum depth is 100 m. | * Mandatoryship reporting system (BONIFREP) * Routing Measures * Recommendation on navigation through the Strait of Bonifacio | Resolution MEPC.204(62) July 2011 |
| 14 | The Saba Bank (North-Eastern Caribbean Area of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) | Saba Bank, in the North-eastern Caribbean, is the largest submarine atoll in the Atlantic Ocean. | * Existing MARPOL Annex V Special Area * Mandatory no anchoring area for all ships * Area to be avoided (by ships 300 GT and over) | Resolution MEPC.226(64) October 2012 |
| 15 | South-west Coral Sea (as an extension of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait) | The Coral Sea extends 2,000 km down the Australian north-east coast. The sea contains numerous islands and reefs and the world's largest reef system, the Great Barrier Reef. | * Two-way route in the Prince of Wales Channel * Two**-**way route in Diamond Passage * Two-way route to the West of Holmes Reef * Area to be avoided north-east of the Great Barrier Reef, between Palm Passage and Hydrographers Passage * Traffic separation systems | Resolution MEPC.268(68) May 2015 |
| 16 | The Jomard Entrance (Papua, New Guinea) | It is a navigable strait in the Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea and connects the Solomon Sea with the Coral Sea. | * Two-way route to the north of Jomard Entrance * Three two-way routes to the south of Jomard Entrance * Precautionary area that lies between the northern and southern two-way routes | Resolution MEPC.283(70) July 2016 |
| 17 | Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (The Sulu Sea, Philippines) | Is a 97,030-hectare Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Palawan, the westernmost Philippine province abt. 150km southeast of Puerto Princesa City. | * Area to be avoided | Resolution MEPC.294(71) July 2017 |
| 18 | North-Western Mediterranean Sea (coastline of France, Italy, Monaco and Spain) | It comprises the waters between Valencia and Genoa, which include: the Mediterranean Cetacean Migration Corridor, the Balearic Islands, the Pelagos Cetacean Sanctuary in Ligurian Sea, the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) called “Gulf of Lions Shelf” and “Slopes and Canyons System of the North-Western Med. Sea”. | * Voluntary speed reduction (VSR) between 10 and 13 knots. * Voluntary safety distance keeping from any medium or large cetacean detected. * Voluntary VHF broadcasting of the position of any medium or large cetacean detected and transmitting the information to designated coastal Authority. | Resolution [MEPC.380(80)](https://www.register-iri.com/wp-content/uploads/MEPC.38080.pdf) July 2023 |
| 19 | Nusa Penida Islands and Gili Matra Islands in Lombok Strait. |  | Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) at the Lombok Strait | Resolution MEPC.396(82) October 2024 |

