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**EARLY AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SOUTHERN SOUTH AFRICAN WATERS AS A SPECIAL AREA
UNDER MARPOL ANNEX I, PENDING ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The Marine Environment Protection Committee, having noted resolution MEPC.154(55) by which the Committee adopted at its fifty-fifth session the amendment to the revised MARPOL Annex I designating the Southern South African waters as a Special Area, and that in accordance with the amendment procedure of Article 16 of the MARPOL Convention, the amendment regarding the Special Area will not enter into force until 1 March 2008, and having also noted the confirmation by the Government of South Africa that there were adequate reception facilities in the area, requests Member Governments and industry groups to comply with the Special Area requirements immediately on a voluntary basis and, in particular, to urge oil tankers to refrain from washing their cargo tanks in the Southern South African waters, pending the entry into force of the Special Area.

Member Governments and Parties to the MARPOL Convention are invited to note the above and to bring this Circular to the attention of all entities concerned, in particular oil tanker operators.
