

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
EQUIPMENT
57th session
Agenda item 11

DE 57/11/13
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**DEVELOPMENT OF A MANDATORY CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING
IN POLAR WATERS**

**Proposals related to an environmental chapter of a mandatory Code for ships
operating in polar waters (Polar Code)**

**Submitted by Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and the
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**

SUMMARY

Executive summary: In this document, FOEI provides input relevant to proposed measures contained in document DE 57/11/9 related to MARPOL Annex V and to the Ballast Water Management Convention

Strategic direction: 5.2

High-level action: 5.2.1

Planned output: 5.2.1.17

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related document: DE 57/11/9

Introduction

1 This submission is made in response to document DE 57/11/9 from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and the United States on proposals related to an environmental chapter of a mandatory Code for ships operating in polar waters (Polar Code) and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of the Committee's Guidelines (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.4/Rev.2). The co-sponsors welcome document DE 57/11/9 as an initial point of departure for discussion of the environmental protection chapter within the Polar Code.

MARPOL Annex V

2 In relation to section 15.4.4 "Additional requirement to those of MARPOL Annex V", FOEI would like to draw attention to the fact that the proposed measures will not increase the level of protection currently provided for the Antarctic area which is already designated as a

Special Area with respect to MARPOL Annex V. In addition, the current provisions of Annex V require that the discharge of introduced avian products is not permitted in the Antarctic area unless incinerated, autoclaved or otherwise treated to be made sterile. It is important that this additional requirement in the Antarctic area is recognized, and also considered for application in the Arctic area.

3 In addition, FOEI proposes that the distance at which discharge of food waste is allowed should be more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, any ice shelf or nearest land fast ice and shall be as far as practicable from areas of ice concentration exceeding 1/10.

BWM Convention

4 In section "Proposals for inclusion in part B of the Polar Code", it should be recognized that the IMO has adopted resolution MEPC.163(56) on *Guidelines for ballast water exchange in the Antarctic Treaty area*.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 during deliberations on an environmental protection chapter in the Polar Code.
