

RESOLUTION A.543(13)

Adopted on 17 November 1983
Agenda item 12

ACCURACY OF OIL CONTENT METERS

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning marine pollution,

RECALLING FURTHER that the Parties to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), have undertaken to give effect to its provisions in order to prevent pollution of the marine environment by the discharge of, *inter alia*, oil or oily mixtures in contravention of that Convention,

NOTING that as from 2 October 1983, under Regulation 15(3) of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78 every new oil tanker shall be fitted with an oil discharge monitoring and control system as specified under resolution A.496(XII),

REAFFIRMING its desire to ensure that ships comply at all times with the environmental standards set by MARPOL 73/78,

RECOGNIZING HOWEVER that experience gained so far with oil content meters approved under the terms of resolution A.393(X) leads to the conclusion that measurements of the actual oil content in oily water mixtures being discharged under operational conditions may not in all circumstances be accurate,

BEING DESIROUS that the reliability of oil content meters be improved with a view to providing accurate measurement of oil content for establishing whether the discharge provisions have been adhered to,

1 REQUESTS the Marine Environment Protection Committee to continue its efforts towards improving the reliability and accuracy of oil discharge monitoring and control systems for oil tankers and to report progress made in this field;

2 INVITES Governments to recognize that oil content, instantaneous rate of discharge of oil content and total quantity of oil discharged, recorded by the existing oil discharge monitoring and control system, although providing a valuable contribution towards the detection of contraventions of the discharge provisions of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, cannot by itself constitute sufficient evidence of such contravention, but should be taken into account together with other evidence collected, when contemplating any action against ships alleged to have contravened the discharge requirements of the said Annex.