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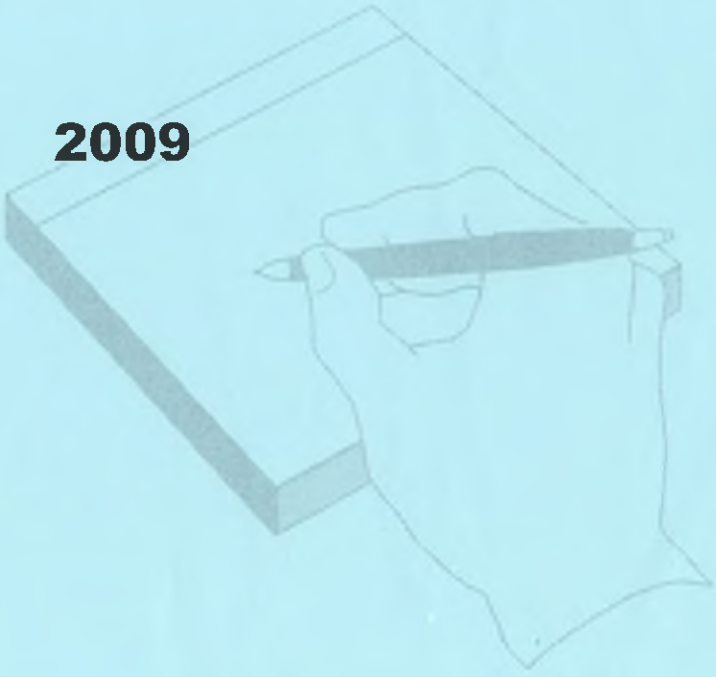
Blue Waters, Green Shipping: Maritime Environment Conventions Affecting Shipping

2009



MIMA Resource Centre

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2009

MARITIME INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA
INSTITUT MARITIM MALAYSIA

BLUE WATERS, GREEN SHIPPING: MARITIME ENVIRONMENT CONVENTIONS AFFECTING SHIPPING

IMO

Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- Development of IMO Conventions
- IMO Conventions and the Protection of the Marine Environment
  - before
  - during
  - after
- Conclusions

Introduction

- International conventions are essential elements in environmental management.
- Conventions specify rights, responsibilities, obligations and limitations of countries.
- Where shipping is concerned the primary international regulatory body is the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- Established in 1948 and has more than 40 conventions under its purview.

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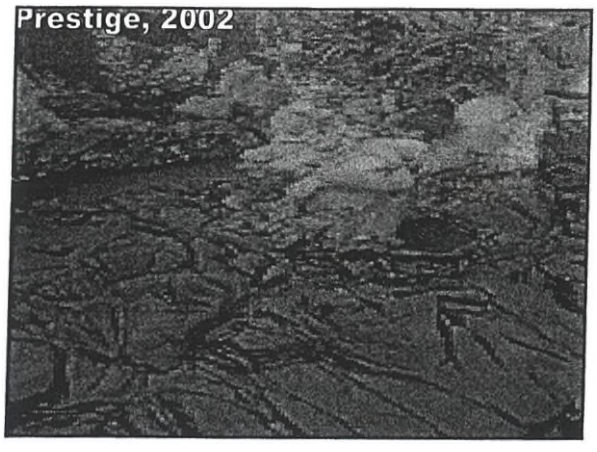
Development of IMO Conventions

- IMO conventions have developed partly in response to changing requirements in the shipping industry.
- Initial focus was on safety of life at sea.
- Increasingly greater demand for environmental protection prompted the development of environmental protection-based conventions.
- Several major oil spill incidents and changing public opinion led to establishment of new conventions and amendments to existing ones

Development of IMO Conventions

- Important events include:
  - the Torrey Canyon incident in 1967 prompted the development of MARPOL;
  - the Exxon Valdez incident which led to amendments of the compensation conventions and OPRC;
  - Prestige incident prompted requirement for double-hulling;
  - public opinions also determine direction of conventions e.g., London Convention.



Key IMO Conventions on Pollution Prevention

- International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 (Intervention Convention) and Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other than Oil;
- International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships, 1973 and the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78);
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention);
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC);
- International Convention on Salvage, 1989 (Salvage Convention, 1989);
- Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969 (CLC, 1969); and
- Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for the Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971 (the Fund Convention).

IMO Conventions and the Protection of the Marine Environment

- IMO conventions provide comprehensive coverage of marine pollution incidents at three stages:
  - before (prevention);
  - during (control and management); and
  - after (liability and compensation).

Before (Prevention of Pollution Incidents)

- Prevention better than cure.
- Principal tools:
  - International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships, 1973 and the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78);
  - Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention);