

ESTABLISHING AN EMISSIONS CONTROL AREA FOR THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND MEXICO

WHEREAS, under Annex VI to the International Convention on Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78), which took effect on May 19, 2005, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted fuel oil standards for ships limiting the sulfur content of fuel oil to 4.5% by weight; and

WHEREAS, the IMO has adopted more restrictive fuel standards for ships in designated Sulfur Emissions Control Areas (SECA) limiting the sulfur content of fuel oil to 1.5% by weight, and

WHEREAS, the IMO has approved a SECA for the Baltic Sea, which took effect May 19, 2006, and a SECA for the North Sea which took effect November 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the IMO has approved amendments to Annex VI by MEPC 57 that allow the designation of Emissions Control Areas (ECA) for SO_x, NO_x, and/or PM, reduce the sulfur limit of fuel in ECAs to 0.1% by 2015, and require the use of Tier 3 NO_x limits for engines on vessels constructed after 2016 when operating within ECAs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S., Canadian and Mexican ports that are members of the American Association of Port Authorities strive to improve air quality on a continuous basis in and around these ports; and

WHEREAS, the ability of U.S., Canadian and Mexican ports to continue to achieve air quality improvements is increasingly limited by emissions from ships visiting these ports; and

WHEREAS, the governments of the United States and Canada plan to submit an application to IMO to amend Annex VI to designate a joint US/Canada ECA by April 2009; and

WHEREAS, said application could be considered at the next MEPC meeting at IMO in March/April 2010; and

WHEREAS, the goal for a joint US/Canada ECA to enter into force is August 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska will be considered for inclusion in a future amendment to the treaty establishing the ECA, when necessary technical work has been completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the U.S. Delegation of the American Association of Port Authorities strongly urges the governments of the United States and Canada, and subsequently Mexico, to seek the designation of the entirety of the United States, Canada and Mexico as an ECA for all three pollutants (SO_x, NO_x, & PM) under MARPOL Annex VI and to implement authorizing legislation as soon as practicable thereafter.

**New Resolution
Recommended for Adoption by the Harbors, Navigation & Environment
Committee**