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MEPC.1/Circ.887
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**REPORTING OF DATA RELATED TO FUEL OIL AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY IN GISIS
TO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE 0.50% M/M SULPHUR LIMIT UNDER MARPOL ANNEX VI**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventieth session agreed to retain 1 January 2020 as the effective date of implementation for the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit for fuel oil used on board ships operating outside emission control areas designated for the control of sulphur oxides.

2 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventy-third session adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI prohibiting the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship by resolution MEPC.305(73), which is expected to enter into force on 1 March 2020.

3 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions considered the collection of data related to the availability and quality of fuel oil compliant with the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit and its analysis, with a view to strengthening and facilitating consistent implementation of regulations 14 and 18 of MARPOL Annex VI.

4 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventy-fourth session instructed the Secretariat to report to MEPC 75 (April 2020) a preliminary overview of data on fuel oil quality and availability currently available in GISIS as well as an overview of the current use of GISIS with reference to obligations under regulations 14 and 18 of MARPOL Annex VI; and to advise the Maritime Safety Committee on the progress made on the new GISIS module for fuel oil safety matters.

5 Having recognized the need for a full understanding of the effectiveness and impact on safe ship operation due to the implementation of the aforementioned regulations soon after their entry into effect date, Member Governments are:

- .1 urged to submit relevant data to the MARPOL Annex VI GISIS database as called for by regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI; and
- .2 invited to consider collaborating with third party entities, where relevant and appropriate, to enter data on a voluntary basis relating to fuel oil quality parameters, while ensuring the accuracy of the third-party data.