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Ref. T5/1.01

MEPC.1/Circ.685  
18 August 2009

**DISCHARGE OF WASTE WATER FROM CRUISE SHIPS IN SEMI-CLOSED  
AND CLOSED SEA AREAS**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-ninth session (13 to 17 July 2009), having held a discussion on the threat of eutrophication to semi-closed and closed sea areas caused by nutrients contained in the discharge of sewage from passenger ships (MEPC 59/24, paragraphs 14.1 to 14.6):

- .1 noted the announcement by Finland that the Baltic States, working through the Helsinki Commission, would submit proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex IV to a future session of the Committee to address that issue; and
- .2 agreed to encourage all passenger vessels navigating in semi-closed and closed sea areas which are threatened by eutrophication, to refrain from discharging their waste water into the sea, and to dispose of it only in port reception facilities, if available.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to disseminate the above agreement as an MEPC circular.

2 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all interested parties, including shipowners and operators of passenger and cruise ships.

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