



MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OUR OCEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING OUTLINE FALL 2020
PLANNED 90 MINUTES

I. WELCOME: (15 minutes)

A. INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS:

Chair Christopher E. Carey

Vice Chair Sean Houseal

Secretary Eva-Maria Mayer

B. MISSION STATEMENT:

The Our Oceans Committee monitors and reports on ocean resources and their economic, environmental, sustainable, and competing uses. We follow international and U.S. oceans policy developments in legal, scientific, and commercial spheres of interest to the MLA's membership, including but not limited to: climate change, polar ice melt, increased Arctic access, and rising sea levels; and the impact of human actions on the oceans.

C. RECENT SITUATIONS/ISSUES BEING MONITORED:

1. M/V WAKASHIO

2. FSO NABARIMA (off Venezuela)
3. FSO SAFER (off Yemen)
4. NEW DIAMOND (VLCC off Sri Lanka)
5. NOAA AWARD OF \$2.7 MILLION GRANTS FOR MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL / PREVENTION
6. NOAA REPORT OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM
7. STATUS OF ARCTIC SEA ICE AND EFFECTS ON NAVIGABILITY

-August 2020 readings show Arctic Sea ice extent averaged 5.08 million sq. km, which is 3rd lowest in the satellite record for this month.

-As of Sept. 1, it was at 4.26 mill. Sq. km, which is the second lowest for that period since records started in 1979.

-This summer revealed substantial openings in sea ice north of Alaska in the Beaufort and Chuckhi Seas. Further melt has occurred since then

(to be updated/expanded prior to meeting)

D. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL), AGREEMENTS and TREATIES

-NAMEPA

-IMO

-World Oceans Assessment 1 and 2

-NSIDC (reports on Arctic Sea ice)

-MARPOL

E. UPDATE ON MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION (Eva-Maria Mayer) (10 mins)

II. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (George Croton) (5 mins)

III. CLE PRESENTATION: POLAR MARINE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES BY PHIL BUHLER (60 MINS)

-General Overview/Update, and drill down on:

- Siberian Chemical Spill;

-Heavy Fuel Oil Ban in Arctic

-Jurisdictional Issues re: recent grounding in Antarctic