

RESOLUTION A.379(X)

*Adopted on 14 November 1977
Agenda item 8(b)*

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY ZONES AND FAIRWAYS OR
ROUTEING SYSTEMS IN OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AREAS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECOGNIZING the need for ensuring unencumbered exploitation of sea-bed resources as well as safety at sea,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the congestion of navigable waters by offshore platforms or other similar structures could result in ships colliding with such structures thereby causing loss of life, pollution of the marine environment and economic loss,

RECALLING Resolution A.340(IX) by which it adopted a Recommendation on Establishment of Fairways through Offshore Exploration Areas,

NOTING that in accordance with Article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf, governments may establish safety zones, extending to a maximum distance of 500 m around continental shelf installations or other devices, which should be respected by ships of all nationalities,

BEING INFORMED of the frequent infringements of safety zones by ships,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Recommendation adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-sixth session,

RECOMMENDS that governments:

- (a) ensure that the exploitation of sea-bed resources does not seriously obstruct sea approaches and shipping routes;
- (b) study the pattern of shipping traffic through offshore resource exploration areas at an early stage so as to be able to assess potential interference with marine traffic passing close to or through such areas at all stages of exploitation;
- (c) where proliferation of oil installations or changes of traffic pattern warrants it, consider as appropriate the designation of safety zones around offshore platforms and other similar structures or the establishment and charting of fairways or routeing systems through exploration areas.

URGES governments:

- (a) to take all necessary steps to ensure that ships under their flags, unless specifically authorized, do not enter or pass through duly designated safety zones;
- (b) to promulgate by all appropriate means details of designated safety zones and established fairways or routeing systems, taking into account Resolution A.341(IX) on the Dissemination of Information, Charting and Manning of Drilling Rigs, Production Platforms and Other Similar Structures,

REVOKES Resolution A.340(IX).