

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/3/5; AP 6/9/1; CONV 2/8 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 8 May 2012 **Maritime Focal Points**
CIRCULAR: 12/35

SUBJECT: Invitation to the Regional Workshop on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and other IMO Tools for Area Specific Management 21st to 23rd August 2012 Townsville, Australia

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), I write to invite your government's participation in a "Regional Workshop on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) and other IMO Tools for Area Specific Management" from 21st to 23rd August 2012, to be held in Townsville, Australia. The workshop will be held at the Reef HQ Aquarium, 2-68 Flinders St, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. A draft programme for the workshop is attached at Annex 1.

The objectives for the Workshop are to:

- Increase capacity of participants on IMO instruments that protect sensitive sea areas from international shipping, particularly the Guidelines for identification and designation of PSSAs; and
- Identify ecological or biological significant areas in the Pacific that are under threat from international shipping and could be considered for designation as PSSAs.

The Workshop is aimed at Government administrators, preferable of a senior level with responsibility for (i) the prevention and control of pollution arising from international shipping, and (ii) the conservation of ecological or biological significant areas such as marine protected areas, involving both areas of technical and policy-making decisions.

It is envisaged that one (1) participant will be sponsored to attend this Workshop, from the following countries:

Cook Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Unfortunately the IMO funding does not extend to the territories *American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna* therefore participation in this training will be at your own cost.

It would be appreciated if you could have the attached registration form (Annex 2) completed at your earliest convenience but no later than **Wednesday 20th June 2012.**

Please note that additional representatives from each country will also be welcomed to attend the Workshop, however, any additional representatives would attend on the basis of self-funding only.

I look forward to receiving your early response and in closing thank you for your consideration of this valuable training Workshop.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sheppard', written in a cursive style.

David Sheppard
Director General

Annexes

- (1) Draft Workshop Programme
- (2) Nomination Form

