

ANALYZING OF MONTHLY GARBAGE DISPOSAL QUANTITIES FROM SHIPS REACHING PORT OF COLOMBO

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The port of Colombo is the largest commercial port of Sri Lanka and it serves as an important terminal in central Indian Ocean region due to its strategic location in the Indian Ocean. Annually, more than thousand ships reach Colombo harbor. Garbage released from these ships is just as deadly to marine life as oil or chemicals. The MARPOL, Annex V seeks to eliminate and reduce the amount of garbage that is discharged into the sea from ships. Under the revised MARPOL Annex V, garbage is categorized as incinerator ash, food waste, cargo residues, paper products, glass, metal, floating dunnage, lining or packaging material and plastics. The effectiveness of ships to comply with the discharge requirements of MARPOL depends largely upon the availability of adequate port reception facilities. Hence, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Sri Lanka (MEPA) has established a facility called Waste Reception Service (WRS) with effect from 1st July 2016.

The present study records the garbage disposal categories according to MARPOL, Annex V from 91 ships within the month of July 2016. Garbage that was collected from each ship was categorized and quantified at the time of inspection. Then quantities of garbage belonging to each category were recorded and then garbage was sent to appropriate disposal sites under continuous and strict monitoring.

At the end of July 2016, 96.78 m³ of plastic, 6.1 m³ of floating dunnage and packaging material, 33.79 m³ of ground down paper products, 44.46 m³ Cargo residues, 52.04 m³ of food waste, 0.53 m³ of incinerator ash, 2.76 m³ of cooking oil and 75.28 m³ of other waste were collected. Plastic was the dominant type of garbage collected from ships. However there is a high tendency of this garbage to enter into the land environment due to the absence of a continuous monitoring system in the area falls beyond the jurisdiction of MEPA. Hence a well-planned systematic monitoring process is needed with the collaboration of all the agencies involved in environmental management and shipping sectors.

Key words: *Port of Colombo, Garbage categorization, MARPOL convention, Waste oil reception service (WRS)*