



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**Ministry of Tourism, Public Transport and the Port**  
**Suite 631**  
**Europort**  
**Gibraltar**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

No. 812/2012

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

### **PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT – MINISTER COSTA ANNOUNCES NEW SANCTIONS FOR POLLUTERS**

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has today fulfilled another of its pledges by introducing stiffer penalties for polluters in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

Among the effects of amendments to the Port Rules and the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2009 will be an increase to the maximum fine for various polluting offences by masters or owners of ships - on summary conviction to £250,000, and on indictment to an unlimited fine. Moreover, custodial sentences are also increased through the new legislation.

The Hon. Neil Costa MP, Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port said that the amendments are part of the Government's active commitment to protecting the environment. Although the new legislation applies to British Gibraltar Territorial Waters generally, the Minister made special mention of the Port: "Gibraltar's is a great commercial and leisure port, and the Government wants to help ensure that both the Port and the waters around Gibraltar are protected as far as possible from environmental damage. We believe that one way we can help ensure this is to introduce dissuasive but proportionate penalties for would-be polluters, in line with other European jurisdictions."

The relevant legislation, namely the Port (Amendment) (No.2) Rules and the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, comes into effect today, 06 December 2012.