



MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 03-2023

**To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS, ISM OPERATORS,
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, SHIPPING AGENTS, GENERAL
SAFETY INSPECTORS**

Subject: SECURITY INCIDENTS IN UKRAINIAN WATERS

Date: 4 December 2023

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this advisory is to remind ship owners/operators of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in addition to bring awareness of the ongoing incidents occurring in the Black Sea. Ship owners and ISM operators are to be aware of the increased hazards associated with operating in close proximity to and through Ukrainian ports.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Below are two security incidents that transpired in Ukrainian waters during the month of November 2023.

On November 8th, a Russian missile hit the superstructure of a civilian Liberian-flagged vessel, at the time of its entry near the Black Sea port of Pivdennyi near the Odesa region. The pilot was killed, three crew members and one port employee were badly injured. The vessel was supposed to transport iron ore to China.

Moreover, the latest marine incident affecting a bulk carrier transporting grains was sailing from Pivdennyi when it was hit by a floating sea mine in the open sea on November 16th and sustained minor damage. According to data from the MarineTraffic ship tracking system, the vessel was seemingly heading towards the Romanian port of Constanta.

As you can recall in Marine Safety Advisory No. 01-2023 issued on 17th July 2023 by our administration, the "Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports" agreement was revoked by the Government of the Russian Federation and since then Russia has repeatedly attacked Ukrainian port infrastructure and also laid sea mines according to Ukraine.

NEW DIRECTIVE:

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) would like prompt all Belize flagged vessel operators, crew, charters, and owners of the ongoing conflict occurring between Russia and Ukraine. There have been quite a few marine incidents involving non-Ukrainian and Ukrainian flagged vessels operating within the Ukrainian waters and the Black Sea. Vessels operating and transiting the Black Sea face a higher risk of being directly targeted by Russian armed forces or there are chances of vessels suffering from collateral damage from missiles and mines.

A large number of navigation warnings have been issued by the NAVAREA Coordinator III, therefore ship masters and their crew are urged to obtain the relevant warning area before

commencing on their voyage. For example, Warning No. 0092/2022 for the Black Sea-Northwestern Part relates to mine danger areas while navigating.

Our Belize flagged vessels are highly advised to operate as far as possible and to keep a clear distance from Ukrainian Sea and river ports. Vessels that are required to operate closer to the Ukrainian coastline and within the Black Sea are recommended:

- To obtain the relevant NAVAREA III Warnings
- To contact local port authorities and ship's agent to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable information.
- For Deck/ Watchkeeping officers to maintain a proper lookout for any suspicious or hazardous objects drifting near the vessel and to properly record the information in the ship's logbook.
- To implement extra protective measures in accordance with the Ship Security Plan if necessary, in the Black Sea and especially Ukrainian waters and to remain in contact with our administration.
- To inform our administration when entering near Ukrainian waters and the Black Sea by means of email. Also, to notify our administration when the ship has left the area for us to be aware that the ship is clear of any risks.

Due to the heightened risks during commercial operations when transiting within the EEZ of Ukraine and the Black Sea, we request that you refer to IMMARBE's ICL-22-001 issued in February 2022 and kindly adhere to the guidelines and conditions of the circular for the safety of the vessel and its crew.

We anticipate your cooperation and encourage all ship owners, operators, charters, and shipping agents to take note of the contents of this advisory and to confirm receipt of this email.



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