Restrictions on Navigation in the Abkhazian Section of the Georgian Territorial Waters

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Masters

Summary

This Note promulgates IMO Circular SN.1/Circ.260 which provides information relating to the restrictions on navigation in the Abkhazian section of the Georgian territorial waters.

1. At the request of the Government of Georgia, the International Maritime Organization issued IMO circular SN.1/Circ.260 to advise that because of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia and the difficult criminal situation in the Abkhazian section of the Georgian territorial waters, it is impossible to provide security and safety measures to foreign ships. For the above reasons the Government of Georgia has now closed all ports of Abkhazia, Georgia and Abkhaz section of Georgian waters for navigation of all types of vessels, except for vessels with international humanitarian cargo shipments.

2. A copy of the IMO Circular SN.1/Circ.260 is attached for ready reference. Shipowners, ship managers, and ship operators and masters of Hong Kong registered ships are advised to note the information provided in the Circular and take necessary precautions if offered any cargo or chartered hire to and from any ports in the Abkhazian section of the Georgian territorial waters.

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