

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4724
24 May 2023

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 22 May 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

**ДЕРЖАВНА СЛУЖБА
МОРСЬКОГО І
ВНУТРІШНЬОГО
ВОДНОГО ТРАНСПОРТУ
ТА СУДНОПЛАВСТВА
УКРАЇНИ**



**THE STATE SERVICE
FOR MARITIME,
INLAND WATERWAY
TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING
OF UKRAINE**

просп. Перемоги, 14, м. Київ. 01135,
Україна
тел.: (+38 044) 294-60-04, 294-60-16,
e-mail: office@marad.gov.ua,
www.marad.gov.ua

14, Peremohy ave., Kyiv, 01135,
Ukraine
tel: (+38 044) 294-60-04, 294-60-16,
e-mail: office@marad.gov.ua,
www.marad.gov.ua

H. E. Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime
Organization

4, Albert Embankment London,
SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Excellency!

The State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine would like to bring to your attention the continued illegal acts of the russian federation in the waters of the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and in the Kerch Strait, as well as unlawful intrusion into the operation of the navigational and hydrographic support of shipping in the aforesaid marine areas, committed in violation of rules of international maritime law, mandatory IMO instruments, international guidelines in the mentioned field and the Ukrainian legislation.

The russian federation continues making attempts to legitimize the illegal annexation of Ukraine's territory by unilaterally amending navigational charts and sailing directions, as well as to change aids to navigation within the coastal waters of Ukraine.

In this regard, it has come to our attention that in the next issue of Notice to Mariners No. 21 to be published by the department of navigation and oceanography of the ministry of defence of the russian federation on 27 May, 2023 (<https://structure.mil.ru/structure/forces/hydrographic/esim.htm>), the russian side plans to remove on its navigational charts any references to state affiliation to Ukraine of the marine areas in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, including the Kinburn Spit (part of Mykolaiv region, Ukraine, in the Black Sea) by removing words "Ukraine", "coast of Ukraine", "borders of Ukraine" and attempting to change them for russian ones, as well as by removing on respective charts all boundaries related to the state borders of Ukraine.

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Thus, the Russian Federation, in violation of the norms and principles of international law, unlawfully and illegally makes changes to the navigation charts regarding the sovereign marine areas of Ukraine, including cancellation of inscriptions of the territorial affiliation of parts of the territory of Ukraine in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, violates the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, in particular, the provisions of Part II “Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone” and Part V “Exclusive Economic Zone”, as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution of 27/03/2014 “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine” (A/Res/68/262) and the UN General Assembly Resolution of 19/12/2016 “Situation of Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)” (A/Res/71/205).

In order to promptly inform the international community about the illegal activities of the Russian Federation in the waters of the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait, as well as the unauthorized interference of the Russian Federation in the navigational and hydrographic support of shipping in the relevant marine areas, it would be greatly appreciated if the abovementioned facts of violations could be disseminated by circular letter.

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the IMO’s support pertaining to the afore-referenced issue. It is my firm belief that our continued cooperation will enhance the overall level of security of maritime domain in the whole world.

Yours sincerely,

Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Yevhenii IHNATENKO