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Circular Letter No.4748
19 July 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 18 July 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



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in the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Ref. 6124/23-327/2- **84180**

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith an official letter of Mr. Vasyl SHKURAKOV, Acting Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine dated 18 July 2023 Nr. 6420/46/14-23, addressed to H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, about the measures implemented by Ukraine aimed at unblocking the international shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea.

The Embassy of Ukraine kindly requests that the IMO Secretariat circulates the relevant communication among all IMO Member States, international organizations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the IMO, at the earliest convenience.

The Embassy of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IMO Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.

**Secretariat
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR**



London, 18 July 2023

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО
РОЗВИТКУ
ГРОМАД,
ТЕРИТОРІЙ
ТА ІНФРАСТРУКТУРИ
УКРАЇНИ**

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International Maritime Organization
Secretary-General
Mr. Kitack LIM

Your Excellency!

On behalf of the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, I have the honour to express my compliments to You, Mr. Lim, and International Maritime Organization and address with the following.

Since the very beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation reverted on a permanent basis to measures, aimed at blocking the maritime routes in Ukraine's sovereign waters and preventing the freedom of international shipping in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Such actions led to the negative global impact on international maritime trade and seafarers.

Russia also manifested attempts to disrupt the Black Sea Grain Initiative concluded under the auspices of the UN, aimed at solving global food security problems. Another proof of this was the refusal by the Russian side to extend this important agreement.

In view of the above and, being guided by the provisions of Articles 22, 87 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Regulations 9 and 10 of the Chapter V of 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, as amended, and, taking into account recommendations of the International Maritime Organization, Ukraine has decided to establish on a temporary basis a recommended maritime route. Its goal is to facilitate the unblocking of international shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea.

The information on the measures taken by Ukraine for this purpose, together with the corresponding approximate schematic image on the map, of the established temporary routes is attached.



ДОКУМЕНТ СЕД

Підписувач Шкураков Василь Олександрович
Сертифікат 26B2648ADD3032E10400000020AD3200F293AD00
Дійсний з 09.12.2022 0:00:00 по 08.12.2024 23:59:59

Міністерство розвитку громад, територій
та інфраструктури України



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We would greatly appreciate it if the IMO Secretariat circulates this letter among all Member States, Observer States and Organizations in Consultative Status with the IMO.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration and express hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Annex: on 3 pages.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Minister

Vasyl SHKURAKOV



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Annex to the Letter of the Ministry for
Communities, Territories and Infrastructure
Development of Ukraine

MEASURES ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED IN UKRAINE IN CONNECTION
WITH THE ARMED INVASION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

After the beginning of the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the maritime routes in the territorial sea and internal waters of Ukraine were blocked by the Russian fleet and anti-ship mines, which created existential threats to international shipping due to the conduct of hostilities and made free navigation in the Black Sea in the direction of the seaports of Ukraine impossible.

First of all, this has a negative impact on the work of the existing vessel traffic distribution system "Approaches to the ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa and Pivdennyi" approved at the 106th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee.

In order to create conditions for the restoration of the freedom and safety of navigation and taking into account the decision of the Russian Federation to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, and guided by the norms of international law - provisions of Articles 22, 87 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, Regulations 9 and 10 of Chapter V of the Annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 as amended and IMO Resolution A.572 (14) "General Provisions on Ships' Routeing" (as amended), Ukraine has implemented following measures with a view to establish on a temporary basis a maritime route in the north-western part of the Black Sea:

1. Changes were made to the existing ship's routeing system "Approaches to the ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa and Pivdennyi", which is being supplemented with temporary additional vessel traffic routes in the direction of the Ukrainian seaports of Chornomorsk, Odesa, Pivdennyi for ships with a draft of up to 12 meters and for ships with a draft of more than 12 meters in the sovereign waters of Ukraine, which lead to the territorial waters and the exclusive maritime economic zone of Romania, at the following coordinates:

A) The vessels traffic route for ships with a draft of more than 12 meters:

45° 03.9' N 30° 18.5' E – point of entry/exit to the combat zone;
45° 33.8' N 30° 36.9' E;
46° 00.0' N 30° 57.8' E;
46° 02.8' N 31° 04.4' E;
46° 19.3' N 31° 04.4' E;
46° 26.3' N 30° 53.9' E – entry point in the area of anchorage № 354.

The width of the corridor is 3 nautical miles.



B) The vessels traffic route for ships with a draft of up to 12 meters:

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45° 05.0' N 30° 03.0' E - point of entry/exit to the combat zone;
45° 14.0' N 30° 01.0' E;
45° 39.0' N 30° 05.7' E;
46° 00.0' N 30° 57.8' E – point of entry to ships traffic route with a draft of more than 12 meters

The width of the corridor is 3 nautical miles.

The date from which vessels will be allowed to move along the temporarily established routes will be additionally specified in the corresponding notices to mariners.

The specified information was brought by the National navigational warnings coordinator of Ukraine to the attention of:

mariners sailing in the territorial sea and inland waterways of Ukraine;
Worldwide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS).

2. In addition, a mechanism has been created to provide guarantees of compensation for damage caused as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and military actions in the territory of Ukraine to charterers, operators and/or owners of seagoing vessels and inland navigation vessels in the event of damage caused during the stay of such vessels in territorial waters of Ukraine, when such vessels are heading to/from open sea ports of Ukraine for cargo transportation. The corresponding mechanism was introduced by the Resolution No. 548 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 26, 2023.



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ПРОЄКТ ВНЕСЕННЯ ТИМЧАСОВИХ ЗМІН ДО СРР "ПІДХОДИ ДО ПОРТІВ ОДЕСА, ЧОРНОМОРСЬК ТА ПІВДЕННИЙ"
(пропозиції МГУ з урахуванням пропозицій Держгідрографії)

