



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

AUG 17 2023

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2023-22

Series of 2023

TO : All Shipowners, Bareboat Charterers, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, Shipmasters, Officers and Crew of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Licensed Manning Agencies, Recognized Organizations, and Concerned Government Agencies

SUBJECT : UPDATES ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

In view of the continuous crisis between Russia and Ukraine, this Authority respectfully provides the following updates as conveyed by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA):

- **Explosions at the Kerch Bridge** - On 17 July 2023, two successive explosions rocked the Kerch Bridge which killed two people. The Russian Foreign Ministry accused Ukraine of attacking the bridge, using two "unmanned surface vessels" (USVS). Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to retaliate and tagged the incident as a "terrorist attack" from Ukraine. The explosion damaged a part of the road from Russia to Crimea but the railway line running parallel to it was not affected. The Kerch Bridge, opened in 2018, links the occupied Crimean peninsula to Russia. The bridge is crucial for Russia's supply of food, fuel and weapons to Crimea.
- **Termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative** - Russia terminated the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) which allowed Ukraine to export grain and other food stuff through the Black Sea using a safety corridor. The Russian side said that the deal is no longer in effect because Russia's concerns including the end to sanctions on the Russian Agricultural Bank; resumption of supplies of agricultural machinery and parts; lifting restrictions on insurance and reinsurance, the resumption of the Togliatti-Odesa ammonia pipeline and the unblocking of assets and accounts of Russian companies involved in food and fertilizer exports, were not addressed.
- **Russia's attack against Odesa** - Russia launched several waves of large drone and missile attacks against the coastal city of Odesa from 17-19 July 2023, hours after the expiration of the BSGI. According to Ukraine's Southern Command, falling debris damaged port and industrial infrastructure and several private homes. Odesa region is home to maritime terminals which were key to the expired grain deal.
- **Russia's announcement on Ships going across the Black Sea** - On 19 July 2023, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced that starting 20 July (12:01

AM Moscow Time), Russia will consider all ships going across the Black Sea to Ukrainian ports as potential carriers of military-purpose cargoes. The Ministry also stated that the flag states of such ships will be viewed as participating in the Ukrainian conflict on the side of Kyiv. The Ministry issued announcements declaring that a number of sea areas in the northwestern and southeastern international waters of the Black Sea are temporarily dangerous for navigation. Russia said that appropriate warning notices about the withdrawal of safety guarantees to mariners have been issued in accordance with established procedures. White House National Security Council spokesperson Adam Hodge said that US officials have information that Russia laid additional sea mines in the approaches to Ukrainian ports in what appeared to be "a coordinated effort to justify any attacks against civilian ships in the Black Sea and lay blame on Ukraine for these attacks."

With Russia's exit from the BSGI, threatening to worsen global food supplies, Ukraine said that it was establishing a temporary shipping route via Romania, a neighboring Black Sea country. Ukraine aims to facilitate the unblocking of international shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea using the temporary route.

The Philippine Embassies in Moscow (Moscow PE) and Warsaw (Warsaw PE) are closely monitoring the developments in Ukraine particularly in the southern part, as Ukraine seems to be making major moves in the area as part of its counter offensive strategy. Long-range weapons such as the UK-provided Storm shadow missiles and the US-provided HIMARS rockets, along with unmanned aerial vehicles or drones, have enabled Ukraine to target Russian military and logistical assets in the rear of Russian defensive lines in southern Ukraine.

The intensified attacks on the Odesa region showed that Russia was determined to stop any advances by Ukraine in the south. With the termination of the BSGI, Russia would likely target Ukraine's ports along the Black Sea more frequently, putting ships navigating the area in danger.

Warsaw PE is in close coordination with the Philippine Consulate in Kyiv regarding the presence of commercial ships and possible Filipino crew in Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Issued on 17 August 2023 at Manila, Philippines.


Atty. **HERNANI N. FABIA**
Administrator

Date of Publication: 24 August 2023

Business Mirror

Date of Submission to ONAR: _____