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MSC.1/Circ.1339  
14 September 2011

## **PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN WATERS OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

### **Best Management Practices for Protection against Somalia Based Piracy**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (the Committee), at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011) having, inter alia, recognized the importance of the Best Management Practices (BMP) and the need to comply with the provisions therein, adopted resolution MSC.324(89) on Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance, and expressed its general understanding of the need to keep the BMP alive, relevant, dynamic and updated.

2 The Committee noted that the industry group was working on a revision to the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area. The Committee therefore authorized the Chairman and the IMO Secretariat to distribute the revised Best Management Practices guidance as a new MSC circular, and to revoke the existing circular (currently MSC.1/Circ.1337) without waiting for the Committee's prior approval. The Committee then would be invited to endorse the new circular retrospectively at its next meeting.

3 The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), acting on behalf of the industry organizations who contributed to the development of, or have declared their support for, the Best Management Practices, has requested the Organization to circulate the most recent version (August 2011) of the Best Management Practices, as set out in annex 1.

4 As authorized by MSC 87, this circular is issued following consultations with the Chairman of the Maritime Safety Committee prior to it being brought to the attention of the Committee.

5 Member Governments are invited to consider the Best Management Practices as set out in annex 2, and advise owners, operators and managers of ships entitled to fly their flag, as well as the shipboard personnel employed or engaged on such ships, to act accordingly taking into account the guidance provided in resolution MSC.324(89) and the Organization's current recommendations to Governments and guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships\*.

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\* MSC.1/Circ.1333 on Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships, and MSC.1/Circ.1334 on Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, or revisions thereto.

6 Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are also invited to consider the Best Management Practices and other guidance detailed in paragraph 5 above, and to advise their membership to act accordingly.

7 Member Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are invited to consider bringing the results of the experience gained from using the Best Management Practices, as set out in annex 2, to the attention of the Committee.

8 MSC.1/Circ.1337 is hereby revoked.

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