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**To:** Deputy Registrars, Registered owners, registered bareboat charterers, Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Belize Flag

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**Subject:** BELIZE-REGISTERED VESSELS OPERATING IN THE BLACK SEA AND SEA OF AZOV

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**1. PURPOSE**

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) with the aim of providing Ship Owners, ISM Operators and Recognized Organizations guidance on the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Given the ongoing geopolitical crisis in Ukraine, IMMARBE takes this opportunity to express its concern over the safety of Belize vessels and their crewmembers operating in the conflict zone in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. Increasing military activities in the area has resulted in the active bombardment of Ukrainian ports such as Odessa, Kherson, and Mariupol. Presently vessels operating under Marshall Islands, Japan and Panama have been attacked resulting in injuries to crew and requiring rescue operations to prevent human casualties. We are aware that our ships have been operating in the area and may be subject to military intervention to stall or re-direct them from conflict territories. Commercial vessels should not attempt to enter the Sea of Azov since access will be denied by Russian military forces.

**3. ACTIONS REQUESTED**

Our Administration advises all Belize flagged vessels and commercial operators of these vessels to avoid transit of the exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Russia within the Black Sea.

For vessels presently at port or operating in the conflict zone the following guidance is provided:

- Inform our Administration of all plans for the safe departure of the vessel.
- Comply fully with the Ukrainian / Russian Maritime Safety directives.
- Review the Ship Security Plan and upgrade the ship security level to Level III;
- Establish communication with the company security officer (CSO) and provide an updated risk assessment and voyage plan.
- Ensure that both the LRIT and AIS systems are transmitting with the exception being cases where the master believes that transmitting might compromise the security of the ship; and
- Alert the management company and the flag Administration if any GPS blocking/interference is encountered

**4. RELEVANT INFORMATION**

Additionally, Belize has received a communication from the Embassy of Ukraine in the United Kingdom informing the IMO Secretariat of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Being guided by the requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine have adopted Order N9183-r establishing the level of maritime security in sea and river ports of Ukraine, port facilities, and vessels entitled to sail under the State flag of Ukraine. According to the aforementioned Order, the MARSEC Level 3 Exceptional (Attack Imminent) was established starting from 25th February 2022 and will remain in effect until otherwise determined by the relevant authorities.

**In this regard, all Ports of Ukraine are now closed for entry and exit.**

**This Administration would like to encourage all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrar and Recognized Organizations to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are implemented on board vessels registered at IMMARBE as deemed necessary.**

**For any questions or queries on this matter, kindly contact Mrs. Annette Garel, Senior Deputy Registrar of Ships at [deputyregistrarbze@immarbe.com](mailto:deputyregistrarbze@immarbe.com)**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Annette Garel'.

Annette Garel (Mrs)  
Senior Deputy Registrar  
IMMARBE HEAD  
OFFICE