

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Hydrographic Information: Cooperation with Hydrographic Services

REFERENCE: (a) Dominica International Maritime Act 2000
(b) SOLAS 1974, Chapter V

PURPOSE: This Circular serves as a reminder to all mariners that most of the navigational information appearing on charts and in such publications as Light Lists, Sailing Directions and Coast Pilots is obtained through an exchange of information by the Hydrographic Offices of many maritime nations.

APPLICABILITY: This Circular applies to Masters and Deck Watch Officers of ships at sea, who provide a vital portion of the required information.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 The World's Hydrographic services have an urgent need for reports of changes in aids to navigation and other Hydrographic data in order to produce and maintain navigation charts and publications. On a worldwide basis, most Hydrographic Offices issue warnings of dangers to navigation by radio broadcast and publish notices to mariners to enable the mariner to correct and maintain his charts and publications. All floating and drifting dangers to navigation, such as mines and wrecks, uncharted shoals, and the failure of important aids to navigation should be reported by radio.

2.0 SOLAS 1974, Regulation V-2 requires the Master of every ship observing dangerous ice, derelicts, tropical storm or any other imminent danger to navigation, to report the danger. The Master must first warn ships in the vicinity and must then report the danger to the first coastal station to which communication can be made, with a request that it be transmitted to the appropriate authorities. Sample messages are contained in SOLAS 1974, Regulation V-3.

3.0 Reports of other Hydrographic information should be made, by expeditious means, to appropriate Hydrographic authorities. These reports might include observed changes in aids to navigation, such as lights, buoys, electronic aids, beacons and soundings found to be different from those charted, magnetic disturbances, ocean currents and changes in port facilities.

4.0 The United States Government disseminates hydrographic information worldwide and encourages Masters and Deck Officers of vessels under Dominica International Registry to submit hydrographic observations for transmission to the maritime community. Mailing instructions are as follows:

Director
Defense Mapping Agency
Hydrographic/Topographic Center
Attention MCC (Mail Stop D-44)
4600 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816-5003, USA

Appropriate forms for recording observations are available upon request from the Defense Mapping Agency and are included on the back of each Weekly Notice to Mariners.

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