Black Sea/Sea of Azov

The following information was received from our correspondent on 09 March 2022:

QUOTE

Please kindly note our update on the situation developments in Russia (Black and Azov Seas).

Ports and aquatories status:

- Russian port on Black Sea continue operations without restrictions, with MARSEC Level No.2 applied.

- Azov Sea is still closed for shipping. Waiting areas remain unchanged:

  45°40,0 N 036°21,0 E; 45°40.0 N 036°30.0 E; 45°34.0 N 036°30.0 E; 45°34.0 N 036°21.0 E

  47°00,0 N 038°22,0 E; 47°00.0 N 038°29.0 E; 46°58.5 N 038°29.0 E; 46°58.0 N 038°22.0 E

- We become aware, that some vessels are allowed to proceed to port of Temryuk and port Kavkaz (land port), however such activities are occasional and it is strictly prohibited for such vessels to proceed further to North part of Azov sea.

- Due to restrictions in Azov sea, and consequent termination of cargo supply (coal, grain, fertilizer), all cargo operations at port Kavkaz road (anchorage areas) are suspended. But we noted that some of grain «mother vessels» were detected at Novorossiysk port, whilst loading grain cargo.

- Transportation service is restricted at Kerch strait waters, therefore it is not possible to attend any vessel at Kavkaz anchorage and OPL area.

- Previously mentioned project of Transport Ministry Decree, related to restriction of waters near the
Crimea bridge is still at stage of discussion.

**Transportation restrictions**

- Presently all international flights, both commercial and private, are suspended by Russian-registered Companies. Relevant recommendation also was issued by Federal Agency «RosAviation». The reason — potential risk of detention of aircrafts.

- Restriction of flights in South Russia is still restricted until 14 March 2022.

**Logistic restrictions**

- We have noted around 30-40% decreasing of shipping traffic in Black sea and Russian ports.

- Russian Ministry of Industry Trade issued a recommendation for Russian exporters of fertilizers to reduce their export volume. At the same time we revealed that presently export of Ammonium nitrate is suspended from ports Novorossiysk nad Tuapse.

- There is a significant decreasing of container traffic. We noted that local container logistic sector is moving towards Turkish and Asian market.

- Foreign express courier delivery services are no longer available in Russia (UPS/DHL/FeDex)

**Crew matters**

Due to increasing number of queries in respect of Ukrainian crew status in Russia, the following comments/recommendations may be issued from our side:

- Presently there are no particular restrictions for Ukrainian seafarers in respect of immigration control. Shore leave is not available due to present COVID-19 precautionary measures.

- As per latest amendments in the Governing Legislation in Russia, making public calls for extremism and terrorism acts on social media platforms, the internet or in person are punishable crimes in accordance with Article 280, Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. The person's nationality is irrelevant for committing this crime which can result in imprisonment of up to 15 years. Therefore we strongly recommend for Shipowners and crew management to instruct the crew to avoid any comments in respect
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of the ongoing conflict. Better to avoid politic discussion at all, especially during inward and outward formalities.

- We also recommend to provide relevant assistance to the vessels with mixed crew including Russian and Ukrainian citizens, to avoid any conflict which may lead to serious consequences.

UNQUOTE

Members with vessels in or who are planning to call Ukrainian ports are encouraged to reach out to their local agents and Managers’ offices in the region for further updates and advice. With the addition of recent Sanctions, members are advised to exercise particular care in performing due diligence on any trade to Russia or Ukraine. More information can be found on the sanctions section of the Club’s website:


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