Black Sea/Sea of Azov

The following information was received from our correspondent on 3 March 2022:

QUOTE

In connection with the North-East part of the Black Sea, may we kindly clarify as follows:

- It is safe for vessels to continue calling the Russian ports situated on the Black Sea coast / North-East part of the sea, including Novorossiysk, Kavkaz, Taman, Tuapse. The same applies to OPL area located beyond the Russian territorial waters in the North-East part of the Black Sea.
- Neither vessels in general nor the Ukrainian crewed vessels are at risk/more risk in the North-East part of the Black Sea or while visiting the Russian ports.
- Concerns about the North-East part of the Black Sea being unsafe have no grounds and may well originate from misunderstanding or simply a typo on the side of a source of information. For example, after announcement of a partial closure of the Sea of Azov for navigation many mistakenly thought from the beginning that the below said navigational warnings were related to the Sea of Azov and not the North-West part of the Black Sea.
- Navigational warning No. 91 ‘in connection with the implementation of anti-terrorist measures from 04:00 24 February 2022 for all vessels in the North-Western part of the Black Sea to North of parallel 45-21n the navigation is prohibited until further notice. The vessels wishing to leave the closed area and ports in the period until 16:00 24.02.2022 are to follow the recommended routes HP 44 and HP 60 in the band of the sea with a width of no more than 4 miles’.

To recap, the vessels can continue to safely call at the ports situated at the North-East part of the Black Sea.

Ports and all their terminals operate in a usual manner, without any safety-related or specific issues, risks, concerns, procedures or formalities over and above the routine operations.

UNQUOTE
CORRESPONDENT’S ADVICE

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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