

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
99th session  
Agenda item 21

MSC 99/INF.12  
12 March 2018  
ENGLISH ONLY

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Industry guidance on the development of a Polar Water Operational Manual

Submitted by ICS and OCIMF

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document informs of an ICS and OCIMF initiative to produce industry guidance for the development of a Polar Water Operational Manual, which must be carried on board ships under the requirements of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 6

*Output:* 6.1

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* Resolutions MSC.385(94) and MEPC.265(68)

#### Background

1 Chapter 2 of part I-A of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) lists requirements for a Polar Water Operational Manual (PWOM), which is to be carried on board. The PWOM should provide owners, operators, masters and crew with sufficient information regarding the ship's operational capabilities and limitations in order to support their decision-making process. Currently there is a perceived lack of appropriate guidance to shipowners to advise on the development of the PWOM.

#### Industry guidance on the development of a Polar Water Operational Manual

2 ICS and OCIMF recognize the need for suitable guidance to assist the development of a ship's PWOM. The co-sponsors have, consequently, agreed to develop such a guidance document and have formed a working group (WG) to carry out this task. It is anticipated that industry guidance on developing the PWOM will be based on appendix II (Model table of contents for the Polar Water Operational Manual (PWOM)) of the Polar Code.

3 The joint ICS/OCIMF WG includes ship masters and other practitioners experienced in ice navigation and other related operations in polar and related waters.

4 Member States and other interested parties are invited to contact the ICS and OCIMF Secretariats for further information regarding this project or to offer advice, comment and technical support to the work.

5 Contact with the ICS/OCIMF Secretariats on guidance for developing a PWOM should be directed to:

International Chamber of Shipping (ICS): [info@ics-shipping.org](mailto:info@ics-shipping.org)

Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF): [enquiries@ocimf.org](mailto:enquiries@ocimf.org)

6 It is anticipated that the joint industry guideline to support PWOM development will be completed in about 12 months. When complete the industry guidelines will be submitted to the Committee for information and for any action that may be deemed appropriate.

**Action requested of the Committee**

7 The Committee is invited to note the information provided.

---