

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.804

**Letter to IMO regarding the implications of protest activities at sea**

Recognising that the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is the primary organisation responsible for safety issues at sea, you will recall that at our recent Annual Meeting in Madeira, the Commission requested me to write to IMO to inform it of IWC's discussions on this issue and to convey the concern of all Contracting Governments regarding the implications of protest activities at sea. My letter to the Secretary-General is attached for your information.

I understand that the IMO's Sub-committee on Safety of Navigation at its meeting beginning 27 July will *inter alia* discuss a Draft Resolution on assuring safety during demonstrations, protests, or confrontations on the high seas. I have therefore requested that my letter be brought to the attention of the Sub-committee. There may be difficulties with this since the deadline for the submission of documents to the Sub-committee was some weeks ago. You may therefore wish to bring my letter to the attention of your colleagues attending the Sub-committee's meeting next week.

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission