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File

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REVISED RECOMMENDATION ON UNDER-KEEL ALLOWANCE FOR DEEP-DRAUGHT
SHIPS NAVIGATING THROUGH THE ENGLISH CHANNEL
AND DOVER STRAIT

At its fifty-fifth session the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 55/25, paragraph 12.2.8) adopted, subject to confirmation by the sixteenth Assembly, the attached amendments to the "Recommendations on navigation through the English Channel and Dover Strait" (resolution A.475(XII)), which were proposed by the United Kingdom and France and are necessary as a consequence of the decision by France not to implement the amended traffic separation scheme "Off Ushant", adopted by the forty-fourth session of the Maritime Safety Committee. The revised recommendation on under-keel allowance (UKA) for deep-draught ships replaces the present recommended UKA of 4 metres, which recent studies have shown to be inadequate.

With regard to the revised recommendation on UKA, the Committee invited Administrations, which publish this advice for use of mariners transiting the Dover Strait, to ensure that the information provided by their hydrographic offices is harmonized, so as to avoid confusing the mariner.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON NAVIGATION THROUGH THE
ENGLISH CHANNEL AND DOVER STRAIT

Replace section 4.5 of Assembly resolution A.475(XII) by the following:

"4.5 UNDER-KEEL ALLOWANCE FOR DEEP-DRAUGHT SHIPS

4.5.1 Masters of ships, when planning their passage through the Dover Strait and its approaches, should ensure that there is an adequate under-keel clearance at the time of passage. To achieve this, allowance must be made for the effects of squat at the passage speed, for uncertainties in charted depths and tide levels and for the effects of waves and swell resulting from local and distant storms.

4.5.2 In assessing a safe under-keel allowance, masters of vessels constrained by their draught are strongly advised to consult the Sailing Directions, Mariners' Routing Guides and Deep-Draught Planning Guides published for the area by Hydrographic Offices, and be guided by the recommendations for under-keel allowance contained therein."
