

Subject: BASWG CL 02/2020

Date: Tue, 31 Mar 2020 08:54:46 +0300

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Dear IHO Director, MBSHC Chairman and colleagues,

Please find attached BASWG CL 02/2020 concerning the postponement of the 15th meeting of the working group.

We hope everybody is safe together with their families in these unprecedented and difficult times,
and kindly ask for confirmation of receipt of the letter.

Respectfully.

On behalf of the BASWG Chairman,



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**OFFICE OF NAVIGATION, HYDROGRAPHY
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To _____ : BASWG Member States
Chair of the MBSHC
Secretariat of the IHO
Secretariat of the IMO
Secretariat of the IALA
NAVAREA-III Coordinator
Region F INT Chart Coordinator

02-20/CL/BASWG

26 March 2020

Subject : *Postponement of the BASWG15 Meeting*

References : a) BASWG CL 01/2020
b) Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of BASWG

Considering the inconvenient situation resulted from the spread of Covid-19, and enforced travel constraints afterwards, it has been decided not to hold the 15th meeting of Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG15) in Istanbul/Turkey, as previously announced by ref (a).

Despite the taken measures, cooperation across the globe and intense effort put into taking control of this outbreak, the date that will mark the end of the pandemic and beginning of life getting back to normal remains unforeseeable.

Cancellation of the meeting would mean a significant gap between the two consecutive meetings, and may lead to a disruption of the harmony our working group agenda maintains with the decisions taken within the relevant subordinate bodies of IHO, MBSHC being the most important.

Regardless of the unfavorable conditions we've been facing, it is important to make some progress on our agenda and update it as necessary, in accordance with ref (b). In order to accomplish this task, it is decided to monitor the evolution of the current situation, wait for the reaction of IHO in general and postpone our meeting until the end of the year, exact dates TBD.

Even though virtual meetings are not as effective, we may opt for a VTC as a last resort and in a condensed format should holding an actual meeting will not be feasible.

We appreciate your understanding, and hope to host BASWG15 safely in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Hakan KUSLAROGLU
Captain
Director, TN-ONHO
Chairman of the BASWG