



**ÇUBUKLU MAH. PİRİREİS CAD. 34805, BEYKOZ
İSTANBUL/TÜRKİYE**

Phone: +90 216 3222580

Fax : +90 216 3310525

**TURKISH NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVIGATION, HYDROGRAPHY
AND OCEANOGRAPHY (ONHO)**

**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**

03-20/CL/BASWG

18 November 2020

Subject : Realization of the BASWG15

**References : a) BASWG CL 02/2020
b) Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the BASWG**

As indicated in Reference (a), the 15th meeting of the Black and Azov Seas Working Group meeting has been given a chance to be conducted as a face-to-face meeting in Istanbul, if an acceptable level of safe conditions, with regards to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, were achieved.

Unfortunately, the evolution of the pandemic hasn't matched with the best case scenario as we hoped, and considering the trend, the near future is not promising either.

We appreciate all the opinions provided so far, as to whether we should wait any longer or conduct a virtual meeting at an appropriate time towards the end of 2020. Major factor is certainly to carry out the meeting prior to the 22nd meeting of the MBSHC (1-3 June 2021) in any case, and the most pronounced concern is the lack of effectiveness of VTCs to mature discussions.

Under these circumstances and after thoroughly consideration of the all available options, it has been decided to postpone the meeting until late April 2021, with the intention of hosting a face-to-face meeting if the opportunity presents itself; or else, proceed with a remote session at a convenience time in May 2021, in order to ensure enough time for the preparations of the 22nd meeting of the MBSHC.

The situation will be carefully monitored through April 2021. Should the severeness of the pandemic linger, the agenda of the meeting will be revised, in line with Reference (b) and in order to cope with the limitations of VTC meetings, which consequently will focus on the priorities and most critical issues.

We are hoping for the best outcome, and wishing everybody healthy days until then.

Yours sincerely.

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