

## 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF BLACK AND AZOV SEAS WORKING GROUP

11 May 2021, Video Teleconference (VTC) Event

**CIRCULAR LETTER 02/2021**

**21 April 2021**

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

Dear Colleagues,

As indicated in Reference (a), the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG15) meeting had been given a chance to be conducted as face-to-face in İstanbul, should 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, despite the worldwide campaign on vaccination. Under these circumstances, and with the intention of not delaying our working group meeting for another year, we are left with no option but to proceed with a video teleconference (VTC) meeting on **May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

The VTC meeting will be hold via Microsoft Teams platform, and a test session to check connectivity will be carried out on **Friday 30 April, at 11:00 UTC**. The links to both events will be posted on the BASWG15 page (<https://iho.int/en/baswg15-2020>).

Please find attached the revised Agenda and Timetable that have been reduced, in line with Reference (b), in order to cope with the limitations of VTC meetings, and will focus on the most priority and critical issues. We kindly ask BASWG Member States to submit their proposals, if any, with regards to the draft agenda items no later than **26 April**, in order to incorporate them into the agenda in a timely manner. National reports or any other documentation related to the agenda should also be provided no later than **3 May**.

We appreciate your understanding, and hope to meet you all in the remote session of BASWG15.

Yours sincerely.



*Hakan KUŞAROĞLU*  
Captain  
Director, TN-ONHO  
Chairman of BASWG

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**Annex:**

Draft Agenda and Timetable