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Circular Letter No.4573
24 May 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Maritime security threat posed by free floating sea mines in the Black Sea Region**

1 The Secretariat has received reports of free floating sea mines in the Black Sea region, including off the coasts of Romania and Turkey, resulting from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine which presents a serious and immediate threat to the safety and security of crews and vessels operating in the region.

2 Ships should navigate with particular caution when operating in the Black Sea region, including off the coasts of littoral States.

3 The Secretariat continues to liaise closely with all key stakeholders in the region, and to contribute to attempts to address the safety and security of this situation.

4 Advice, updates and links to external resources for Member States, flag States, shipping and seafarers can be found at the following link: [Maritime Security and Safety in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov \(imo.org\)](https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/operations/operational-awareness/operational-awareness-2022/)