

Resolution A.766(18)

*Adopted on 4 November 1993
(Agenda item 11)*

NAVIGATION IN THE STRAIT OF BONIFACIO

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

NOTING resolution A.648(16) – General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements, including Guidelines for Reporting Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods, Harmful Substances and/or Marine Pollutants,

BEING AWARE of the close relationship between safety of navigation and prevention of pollution from ships,

RECALLING the necessity, duly recognized by resolution A.670(16), of protecting the vulnerable coasts of France and Italy in the vicinity of the Strait of Bonifacio in view of their ecological value,

BEARING IN MIND the international status of the Strait of Bonifacio,

RECOGNIZING the importance of not derogating from the right of navigation through international straits,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that a ship reporting procedure and an information system for notifying ships of the navigational conditions in the narrow waters of the Strait of Bonifacio would be an important factor in the safety of navigation,

BEING INFORMED of the decision of the Governments of France and Italy to establish such a system in the Strait of Bonifacio on a permanent basis,

NOTING that, despite the recommendation made by the Organization, the traffic of laden oil tankers and of ships carrying dangerous chemicals has increased by 40% in the Strait of Bonifacio since 1985,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that laden oil tankers and ships carrying dangerous chemicals which are neither bound for, nor sailing from, French or Italian ports are able to take routes which are equally convenient from the point of view of navigation or hydrographic characteristics,

RECALLING the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, and resolution 5 on Intentional Pollution of the Sea and Accidental Spillages, adopted by the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-second session,

1. RECOMMENDS Governments to prohibit or at least strongly discourage the transit of the Strait of Bonifacio by laden oil tankers and ships carrying dangerous chemicals or substances in bulk liable, in the event of a casualty, to pollute the sea or the coasts, as listed in the annex to resolution MEPC.49(31) adopted on 4 July 1991, and which are flying the flags of their respective States;
2. ENDORSES the Regulations concerning a system of surveillance and information for ships in the Strait of Bonifacio set out in the annex to the present resolution;
3. REVOKES resolution A.670(16).

Annex

REGULATIONS CONCERNING A SYSTEM OF SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION FOR SHIPS IN THE STRAIT OF BONIFACIO

1 For the purpose of improving the safety of navigation in the Strait of Bonifacio and reducing the risks of pollution of the French and Italian coastlines in the Strait as a result of groundings or collisions involving tankers, gas carriers or bulk chemical carriers, a system of surveillance and information for mariners shall be established by the Governments of France and Italy.

The system shall have the following objectives:

- .1** to monitor, from radio stations designated for that purpose, the movement of ships in the Strait of Bonifacio and in its eastern and western approaches so as to be able to notify the coastal authorities concerned sufficiently in advance of any accident that might occur to such ships and to be able to warn the ships themselves of any hazard that might threaten their safe passage;
- .2** to monitor, from radio stations designated for that purpose, the passage through the Strait of Bonifacio of ships that are or might be a hazard for other shipping because they are restricted in their ability to navigate as a result of a defect in their essential equipment which they need in order to pass through the Strait under the prevailing conditions; to communicate any relevant information on such ships to other ships crossing the Strait;
- .3** to inform all ships crossing the Strait of the existing navigational conditions and hazards.

2 In order to achieve this end, every ship which is in a position to do so when entering or crossing the Strait of Bonifacio is requested:

- .1** to make VHF radiotelephone contact with the French or Italian radio stations on channel 10 or, if necessary, on channel 16 before beginning their passage and to maintain such contact without interruption while in the Strait;
- .2** to transmit to one of the radio stations indicated in paragraph 3 below, at the request of the station, the following information in English, French or Italian as indicated in the reporting format set out in the appendix.

3 The radio stations providing information for mariners in the Strait of Bonifacio are:

- On the French side:
Pertusato Signal Station
Call sign: Pertusato traffic
Frequency: VHF channel 10
- On the Italian side:
La Maddalena Signal Station
Call sign: La Maddalena
Frequency: VHF channel 10

Appendix

Format for ship movement messages in the Strait of Bonifacio

Message identifier	MAREP (BONIFACIO)	
Type of report	POSREP or DEFREP or CHANGEREPA	(for a position report) (for a defect report) (for a change of position report)
Name of ship	A	Name of ship International call sign
Date/time (UTC) group	B	A 6-digit group giving date of month (first 2 digits), hour and minutes (last 4 digits), followed by Z
Position	C or C or D	Departure port (for ships crossing the Strait) or A 4-digit group giving latitude in degrees and minutes followed by N and a 5-digit group giving longitude in degrees and minutes followed by E (for ships passing through the Strait) or Azimuth: 3 digits indicating degrees. Name of landmark. Distance: 2 digits indicating miles
True course	E	A 3-digit group
Speed	F	A 3-digit group indicating knots and tenths of knots
ETA	I	A 6-digit group as in B above, indicating the date and time followed by the destination (for ships crossing the Strait)
Route information	L	A 4-digit group giving time of passing due south of the LAVEZZI lighthouse (for ships passing through the Strait)
Cargo	P	Nature of the cargo (for ships carrying oil, gas or bulk chemicals)
Limited ability to navigate	Q	Nature and gravity of manoeuvring limitations, if any, to which the ship is restricted (for ships with restricted ability to manoeuvre)
Additional	X	Any other information which may be useful