



**Circular Letter 2026/04**

16 February 2026

**Subject: Navigational Safety in the Northwestern Black Sea – Request for Assistance from the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine**

**To:** Member States, Associate and Affiliate Members,

**Reference:** Letter from SHSU received 10 February 2026 - SHSU Request of International Humanitarian Aid Concerning the RF Aerial Attack to the Odesa Branch of the SHSU

Dear Member,

The Secretariat has received official communication from the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine (SHSU), a subordinate body of the State Service for Maritime and Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine and the national Aids to Navigation authority. SHSU reports a critical situation regarding the provision of safety of navigation services to civil shipping operating in the northwestern part of the Black Sea.

As outlined in the referenced letter, transmitted herewith, SHSU expresses its appreciation for any international donor assistance that IALA and its Members may be able to provide in support of restoring essential safety of navigation services following the destruction of its Odessa branch facilities.

The Annex to the SHSU letter presents a detailed list of SHSU's urgent and priority needs required to re-establish normal operations and ensure the effective and sustained performance of its core functions.

Members are invited to give due consideration to the request for support, in the interest of enhancing safety of navigation and safeguarding the marine environment through the continued and reliable provision of Aids to Navigation services.

Feel free to contact the secretariat at [secgen@iala.int](mailto:secgen@iala.int) for further information and coordination as needed.