

ДЕРЖАВНА УСТАНОВА
«ДЕРЖГІДРОГРАФІЯ»



STATE HYDROGRAPHIC
SERVICE OF UKRAINE

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ДУ «Держгідрографія»
№222/16-2/26 від 10.02.2026



Mr Francis ZACHARIAE
Secretary-General
International Organization for
Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA)
10 rue des Gaudines, 78100,
St Germain en Laye, France
E-mail: contact@iala.int

Dear Mr Francis ZACHARIAE,

On behalf of the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine (SHSU) – acting as both the national hydrographic office and the lighthouse authority within Ukraine's area of responsibility in the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, and the Kerchenska Strait – I wish to extend our highest regards to the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA). The SHSU has always deeply valued the spirit of international cooperation that unites us in our common goal of maritime safety. It is with this profound sense of shared purpose that I appreciate your kindest attention to a matter of extreme urgency regarding the critical challenges currently facing our Service.

I wish to bring to your attention the serious situation the SHSU has encountered since the night of 28 January 2026, when civil critical infrastructure facilities involved in providing navigational safety to civil shipping in the northwestern part of the Black Sea were subjected to deliberate, non-discriminate targeting by Russian missiles and loitering drones. (Pictures are attached)

While I am immensely relieved to report that no lives were lost, the destruction of the Odesa Branch of the SHSU is nearly total. The loss of vital hydrographic instruments and specialized navigational equipment has significantly compromised our capacity to provide the essential safety services required for civil shipping throughout our areas of responsibility.

Moreover, as the SHSU acts as both the National Navigational Warning Coordinator and the National NAVTEX Coordinator of Ukraine, I must report that the Odesa NAVTEX Coastal Station was temporarily placed out of order as a direct result of this attack. Nevertheless, the aforementioned station has already successfully restored its proper functioning. The NAVAREA III Coordinator has

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been promptly and fully informed of this situation and its implications for MSI promulgation within the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, and the Kerchenska Strait.

These unfortunate events represent more than just a loss of property; they pose a direct threat to the safety of all who travel these waters. Ukraine remains steadfast in its desire to fulfill its international obligations under the SOLAS Convention. However, I must be honest: the objective limitations caused by this destruction make the sustainable functioning of the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine increasingly difficult without the solidarity of our global partners.

The situation has become even worse by the current period of unusually severe cold this winter, which has significantly affected working conditions at our Kyiv central office, including the SHSU Charting Branch "Ukrmorkartographia," and the Dnipro Branch, as well as the remaining facility of the Odesa Branch. Ongoing interruptions to heating and electricity, caused by continued attacks on critical infrastructure, have led to serious equipment problems, including damage to some office battery systems. As a result, it is not yet possible to confirm when normal operations will resume.

In light of these circumstances, we are seeking international donor assistance to help restore the navigational safety provision. We recognize the unique and respected position your organization holds within the maritime community, and we believe your role as an intermediary would be invaluable in helping us connect with donors who can provide the technical support necessary for our recovery. We remain hopeful that with your kind assistance, we can rebuild what has been lost and ensure that the waters of Ukraine remain safe and navigable.

Attached is a detailed list of the urgent equipment and their requirements for the SHSU and its regional branches.

Please accept our most sincere gratitude for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued support and solidarity.

Annexes.

- 1) List of the Humanitarian Aid Needs of the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine (SHSU), as of 10 February 2026, digital spreadsheet on 3 pages
- 2) Pictures of consequences of the Russian Federation aerial attack on the Odesa Branch of the SHSU's facility during the night of 28 January 2026, 8 pics.

With kindest regards,

Acting Head of the SHSU



Ivan ZHEKOV