

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.5032
29 July 2025

To: IMO Members and other Governments
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **World Maritime Day 2025**

1 Further to [Circular Letter No.4959](#) of 10 January 2025, which included a background paper on this year's theme, "**Our Ocean – Our Obligation – Our Opportunity**", the Secretary-General has the honour to enclose, in the annex, the text of his message on the occasion of World Maritime Day 2025. This year's celebration will take place on Thursday, 25 September 2025.

2 The background paper, the Secretary-General's message and his video message, are available on the [World Maritime Day theme 2025](#) web page, which includes digital assets related to the theme. The Secretary-General's video message is also available on [IMO's YouTube channel](#) (click [here](#) or on the image on the right).



3 The Secretary-General wishes to remind all Member States and international organizations of the Calendar of Events available on the IMO website (click [here](#)). The Calendar of Events provides, through an effective and easy-to-use platform, the opportunity for greater visibility of the many events held around the world in support of World Maritime Day, as well as other celebrations and activities by Member States and observer organizations. More information on the Calendar of Events is available in [Circular Letter No.3889](#).

4 In order to promote World Maritime Day and this year's theme more widely, the Secretary-General encourages the authorities concerned to organize suitable events throughout the year and to light up, in blue colour, symbolic buildings on that day (see [Circular Letter No.5022](#)). Those organizing any such activities may inform the Secretariat and list them on the above-mentioned Calendar of Events. Social media participation is also encouraged via all social media platforms, using the hashtag **#WorldMaritimeDay**.

ANNEX

**WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025
"Our Ocean – Our Obligation – Our Opportunity"**

**A message from Arsenio Dominguez
Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization**

The ocean sustains life on Earth as we know it. It allows us to breathe and regulate our climate.

The ocean brings food to our table, connects people across continents and provides global blue ways for the ships which transport 80% of world trade.

But our ocean is under threat. Plastic pollution, rising temperatures, acidification, overfishing. Our oceans are struggling to keep up with human pressure.

The ocean's decline is not a coincidence. It is driven by human activities, however, that also means that we have the power to reverse it. It is our obligation to work collaboratively to reduce pollution, protect marine life and shift to sustainable habits.

Protecting and restoring the ocean is not just a duty. It is our opportunity to build a healthier planet, stronger economies and a safer future for generations to come.
