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9 March 2017

MC(17)10

To: **MARINE COMMITTEE**

Copy: **All Full and Associate Members (for information)**
Maritime Law Committee

PHILIPPINES PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES – ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGES

Action Required: Members are invited to note information on recent 'environmental' charges by the Province of Zambales in the Philippines and to advise their shipowner Members accordingly.

Members will recall circular MC(15)64 of 7 December 2015 on the subject of the charges levied by the Philippines' Province of Zambales for coastal surveillance. The circular informed Members that following discussions with the Province of Zambales, it had been agreed that invoices raised against ships that transited the coastal waters of Zambales should not be paid. Notwithstanding this agreement, ICS has been informed that recently the Province of Zambales (Philippines) has once again started making an environmental charge for ships on passage through the coastal region. This action is understood to be contrary to the official opinion issued by the Philippines Legal Department when this issue last arose in 2015.

ICS has been advised by the Filipino Shipowners' Association (FSA) that companies should for the time being not pay in response to any invoices received. FSA further advises that deferment for 60 days will give sufficient time for the FSA and the Philippines Congress to investigate and to take action.

In the interim, ICS Members are invited to keep the secretariat informed of invoices received, via jade.smith@ics-shipping.org .

Peter Hinchliffe
Secretary General