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NON-TECHNICAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE QUALITY SHIPPING FOR CARRIAGE OF OIL BY SEA

POLLUTION INCIDENTS INVOLVING SHIPS FALLING OUTSIDE THE AMBIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS

Submitted by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF)

Summary:	At its second meeting in March 2007, the 4th intersessional Working Group decided to invite ITOPF to consider whether a trend existed in the frequency of the 15 spills which had been reported as falling outside the ambit of the P&I Clubs belonging to the International Group of P&I Clubs. Following an examination of the dataset, no such trend in the spill frequency is discernible.
Action to be taken:	Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

1.1 At the second meeting of the 4th intersessional Working Group, held in March 2007 the Deputy Director/Technical Advisor presented the findings of a study by the Secretariat to determine the extent to which ships falling outside the ambit of classification societies that were members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and P&I insurers belonging to the International Group of P&I Clubs should be the main focus of the Working Groups attention.

1.2 The study was based on data compiled by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) and by the IOPC Funds. It was reported that a total of 1 313 incidents over a 35-year period had been identified involving spills of persistent oil from tankers entered in Clubs belonging to the International Group of P&I Clubs and that there were only 15 such incidents involving vessels not entered in clubs belonging to the International Group or reinsured through the International Group's pooling agreement. The findings of the study were presented in document 92FUND/WGR.4/4/1.

2 The issue

2.1 Following a question from the delegation of Cyprus concerning a possible trend in the distribution of the 15 spills falling outside the ambit of the International Group of P&I Clubs, ITOPF was invited by the Working Group to consider whether the spill frequency in this subset of the data had increased or decreased over the 35-year period covered by the ITOPF database.

2.2 An examination of the data in question revealed that the spills spanned the period 1970 to 2001 with the number of incidents in each year varying between zero and two. There is no discernible trend in the data, which is reproduced in the following table:

Year	1970	1974	1978	1986	1988	1990	1991	1993	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001
No.	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

2.3 The subset of data was also examined for the existence of any other trends. As is to be expected, most of the ships involved were small, with ten vessels of less than 1 000 GT, five in the range 1 000 – 10 000 GT, and one larger vessel. No other significant features could be discerned in the data.

3 Action to be taken by the Working Group

The Working Group is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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