

## **IAATO Further Recommendations to Enhance Marine Safety** (October 9, 2009)

Following further consideration of the “*Report of Investigation in the Matter of Sinking of Passenger Vessel EXPLORER (O.N. 8495) 23 November 2007 in the Bransfield Strait near the South Shetland Islands*” and related documents, the IAATO Marine Committee recommends the following actions for their vessel operators:

1. Review weather, ice and routing information services to ensure the most appropriate available information is provided in a timely manner to their vessel (s).
2. Carry out a regular review of company procedures, including emergency response, to ensure all persons involved have a clear understanding of current Antarctic requirements.
3. Operators should stay abreast of, and consider use of, continued technological developments, such as forward-looking sonar and ECDIS.
4. Ensure onboard drill schedules include regular damage control scenarios related to ice damage. Control measures should consider the implications of cold weather environments.
5. When entering the Southern Ocean, make sure that passenger and crew attention is drawn to the necessity for suitable clothing in conditions that can be severe and inhospitable. Operators of SOLAS passenger vessels also should take action to strongly encourage passengers to observe the weekly crew abandon ship drill and fire drill (see SOLAS Paragraph B Chapter III Regulation 30.2<sup>1</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> **FULL TEXT OF SOLAS Paragraph B Chapter III Regulation 30.2:** “*On Passenger ships, an abandon ship drill and fire drill shall take place weekly. The entire crew need not to be involved in every drill, but each crew member must participate in an abandon ship drill and a fire drill each month as required by regulation 19.3.2. Passengers shall be strongly encouraged to attend these drills*”.