



Media Release - 19 August 2020

“M/V Wakashio grounding and the environmental tragedy in Mauritius”

INTERCARGO would like to express its sympathy to the people of Mauritius as they face the state of environmental emergency declared as a result of the grounding of the M/V Wakashio.

No doubt once the facts are known, there will be valuable lessons to be learned from the grounding of the 203,000-dwt bulker off the coast of Mauritius, with the resulting damage to the marine environment and the livelihoods that depend on it.

INTERCARGO calls for more assistance to be provided to restrain the further spreading of leaked oil and to collect it as quickly and effectively as possible. It also urges the Flag State and all involved stakeholders to investigate this environmental tragedy both transparently and in depth, and to release the findings as a matter of urgency.

INTERCARGO said in a statement: “We are relieved that the crew was safely evacuated, and that any loss of life has been avoided in this tragic incident. As an industry we must ensure such accidents are avoided especially in busy sea lanes, which pass through pristine environmental habitats and island nations, where people are dependent on marine life and tourism.

“Of course we must express our concerns that such an incident can still occur today, despite the advanced navigational equipment, modern training methods and up-to-date weather routing services currently available to the shipping industry.”

About INTERCARGO: International shipping is vital for the global economy and prosperity as it transports approximately 90% of world trade. The dry bulk sector is the largest shipping sector in terms of number of ships and deadweight. Dry bulk carriers account for 43% of the world fleet (in tonnage) and sail an estimated 55% of the global transport work. You are invited to view our video [Dry Bulk Shipping: Sustainably serving the world’s essential needs](#).

The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO) is representing the interests of quality dry bulk shipowners, with close to 2,400 registered ships out of more than 11,000 ships in the global dry bulk fleet, corresponding to over 25% of the global dry bulk fleet basis deadweight. INTERCARGO convened for the first time in 1980 in London and has been participating with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1993. INTERCARGO provides the forum where dry bulk shipowners, managers and operators are informed about, discuss and share concerns on key topics and regulatory challenges, especially in relation to safety, the environment and operational excellence. The Association takes forward its Members’ positions to the IMO, as well as to other shipping and international industry fora, having free and fair competition as a principle.