

Att.: Ian Dundas

Dear Sir,

We have read your information and request for input. We do feel we need some more background information to fully endorse a BIMCO position.

However, we can offer the following brief initial comments:

1) If our assumption is right that Australia may be considering a salvage system comparable to the U.K. SOSREP system, BIMCO can fully endorse such a setup. It comes at a cost, of course, and the involved companies making their tug boats available must be compensated otherwise there will not be any incentive to do so. We appreciate that this initiative regards the safety of lives at sea, but also the prevention of pollution, hence the cost of running such a system should be shared by all the stakeholders, not solely by the shipping Industry.

2) Given the vast Australian coastline, it would be unreasonable to expect salvage tugs to be available within a few hours after an accident occurs. Hence the strategic placing of the tugs must be given very thorough consideration, considering issues like traffic density, peculiarity of the coastline incl. reefs, history of casualties, etc.

We would be very interested in the outcome of your deliberations on this issue and invite you to consider BIMCO as a possible vehicle to promulgate such information to a large portion of the shipping Industry.

Best regards

BIMCO, Marine Department

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