



SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
EQUIPMENT
53rd session
Agenda item 18

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**DEVELOPMENT OF A MANDATORY CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING
IN POLAR WATERS**

**Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts on the management of ship-borne tourism in the
Antarctic Treaty area**

Submitted by New Zealand

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides information with regard to the agenda item about the Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts on the management of ship-borne tourism in the Antarctic Treaty area which was held in Wellington from 9 to 11 December 2009
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5.2
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	5.2.1.2
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 5
<i>Related document:</i>	MSC 86/26

1 The Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts on the management of ship-borne tourism in the Antarctic Treaty area (ATME) took place in Wellington, New Zealand, from 9 to 11 December 2009. The meeting was held pursuant to Decision 7 (2009) of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting ATCM XXXII.

2 The purpose of the Meeting of Experts was to endeavour to accelerate consideration of matters relating to the management of ship-borne tourism in the Antarctic Treaty area and to provide recommendations for consideration by Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXIII when it meets in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 3 to 14 May 2010. The principal concern is to prevent a humanitarian and environmental disaster in the Antarctic which could arise from a tourist vessel becoming a maritime casualty. The sinking of the **MV Explorer** in November 2007 and a spate of groundings in the past three years were seen as a “wake-up call” by the Parties. It is New Zealand’s responsibility to submit the chairs’ report on the Experts’ Meeting to ATCM XXXIII.

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3 The Meeting of Experts recalled ATCM Resolution 8 (2009) which welcomed the IMO's development of Guidelines for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (subsequently adopted on 2 December 2009 by resolution A.1024(26)) and noted the Antarctic Treaty parties' desire for IMO to develop mandatory requirements for ships operating in Antarctic waters. Meeting participants expressed strong support for the development of a mandatory Polar Code. They confirmed they would wish to continue to be actively engaged in the process in order to share specific expertise on Antarctic tourist shipping operations. They shared views on a range of issues relating to a mandatory Polar Code.

4 Participants expressed appreciation for the valuable contribution of Dr. Heike Deggim, Senior Technical Officer, IMO, by her participation in the meeting. They recommended that ways to enhance the cooperative working relationship between the ATCM and IMO should be further considered at ATCM XXXIII.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to take the information provided into account when commencing work on the development of a mandatory Code for ships operating in polar waters.
