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Subject: IHO CL 78/2012_ Croatian views on proposed changes to Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles

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Dear Sir,

Croatia (HR) regrets the very short term in the holiday period for comments on the proposed changes to the Guidelines for the Implementation on of the WEND Principles. Despite a small delay in sending comments, we believe they will be analyzed and taken into account when defining the final proposal of changes to the Guidelines. Due to the limited deadline HR provides only a few general remarks without editing of the current proposal of Guidelines in accordance with such attitude

1. HR understanding is that the main objective of changes to the Guidelines is a better and faster implementation of the WEND principles, and more efficient resolving of ENC related issues. Consequently, HR fully supports the work of the WEND Working Group and IHO efforts in the reaffirmation of their role concerning ENC issues.

2. In case of gaps and/or overlaps of ENCs, HR considers that primary responsibility to resolve these issues rests on sovereign coastal states, members of the IHO/IMO. Without the full consent of the concerned coastal state, expressed through a written bilateral agreement, no one else (sovereign country, organization or EUSP) shall have the right to address the issues of gaps and/or overlaps of ENCs. The starting point for such unconditional attitude is reflected in the understanding of the formal and legal responsibility of a

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