



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
30th session
Agenda item 12

STW 30/INF.5
27 November 1998
ENGLISH ONLY

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The worldwide demand for and supply of seafarers

Submitted by the International Shipping Federation (ISF)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: ISF has conducted a survey amongst its member national shipowner's associations of their perceptions about recent changes to the international demand for and supply of seafarers.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 4.

Related documents: STW 30/1.

1 The Sub-Committee may recall that in 1990 and 1995, ISF and BIMCO conducted comprehensive surveys of the worldwide demand for and supply of seafarers. It is anticipated that a similar survey will be conducted by ISF and BIMCO for the year 2000.

2 In the meantime, the Sub-Committee may be interested to note the results of an Interim Manpower Survey conducted amongst ISF nationals shipowners' associations during the summer of 1998. A copy of the results is attached* for information.

3 This "Interim Survey" provides a limited impression of the contemporary supply/demand situation from which the following tentative conclusions can be drawn:

- .1 the gap between supply and demand for officers appears to be continuing to deteriorate, with shortages reported by most national associations, particularly amongst engineers;
- .2 the average age of senior officers appears to have continued to increase, re-emphasising the question concerning where the next generation of senior officers is going to come from;

* Due to the limited number of copies available, distribution is restricted to one copy per delegation attending the meeting.

- .3 recruitment of new trainees does not appear to have increased significantly, and in many countries, the number of recruits appears to have declined, suggesting that if the size of the world trading fleet increases significantly during the next few years - at a time when large numbers of senior officers are due to retire - the industry could be confronted with an increasingly serious manpower problem.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

- 4 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the attached manpower survey results.
