



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 10/131
SC CIRC 10/76

Friday, 17 December 2010

Sinking of Insung No. 1

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**COMM CIRC 10/131
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17 December 2010

Sinking of *Insung No. 1*

The Republic of Korea has requested that the attached letter regarding the tragic sinking of its vessel the *Insung No. 1* in Subarea 88.2 be circulated to all Members. Members' attention is drawn to Korea's plea for assistance from vessels in the area to search for the missing crewmen and their possessions.

Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary

Attch.

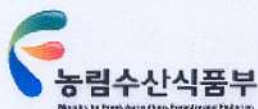
Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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16 December, 2010

Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
PO Box 213
North Hobart
Tasmania 7001
Australia

Dear Andrew,

First, I would like to extend my appreciation to New Zealand for circulating the information on the tragic accident happened to *the Insung No. 1*, on the 14th December, 2010. I would also like to give our thanks to the New Zealand government and *the F/V Antarctic Chieftain* and *the F/V Janas* for participating in the rescue and search operations.

This letter is to give you an update regarding the accident and ask for the members' cooperation.

The Insung No. 1 departed from the Port of Montevideo on November the 2nd, 2010. During its trip to subarea 88.1 of the CCAMLR Convention Area, the vessel sank at a longitude 63 degrees 20 minutes south and a latitude 160 degrees 15 minutes west, at 06:30 (LMT) on December 13th, 2010.

At the time of the accident, there were 42 crew members (8 Koreans, 8 Chinese, 11 Indonesian, 11 Vietnamese, 3 Filipinos and 1 Russian). As of December 15th, 2010, 20 of them have been rescued alive and 1 has been rescued but passed away. The rescue team has also found 4 bodies, but 17 of the crew are still missing. Among the 17 missing crew, 5 are Koreans, another 5 are Indonesian, 4 are Chinese and 3 are Vietnamese. Among the 42 people who were on board, there were 2 scientific observers, a Korean and a Russian. The Russian observer has been rescued alive but the Korean observer, Mr. Jin hwan Kim, is still missing.

To find the missing people, Korean-flagged vessels, *the Hongjin No.707*, *the Insung 7* and Russian flagged vessel, *the Gold Gate*, are conducting the search and rescue operations in the Area, but there has not been much progress.

The reason for the accident has not been clearly identified yet but it is thought that the vessel might have gone down due to the loss of stability after being hit by swell waves.

Also, we would like to ask your support in searching for the missing crew members and observer, whose families are still holding onto every last string of hope that their husbands, fathers and sons might still be out there in the freezing water of Antarctica. If you find any of them, even the bodies or possessions of the missing or the deceased, please inform the Korean government as soon as possible.

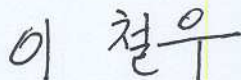
I will give you a further update as we are informed about the progress.

Again, the Korean government would like to extend our deep gratitude to New Zealand and Russia for their full cooperation in searching and rescuing operations. I also thank all the members for their support and condolences.

It would be much appreciated if you could circulate this letter to the members.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the Korean characters '이' (Lee) and '철우' (Cheol-woo) written in a cursive style.

Ph.D. Cheol-Woo LEE

Director General for Distant Water fisheries Bureau

Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Republic of Korea