



INTERNATIONAL  
OIL POLLUTION  
COMPENSATION  
FUND 1992

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
3rd session  
Agenda item 3

92FUND/EXC.3/4  
22 April 1999  
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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE 1992 FUND

### SEA BROTHERS 1

#### Note by the Director

<b>Summary:</b>	The bunkering tanker <i>Sea Brothers 1</i> sank in Manila harbour, spilling approximately 280 tonnes of bunker fuel. Claims for pollution damage are unlikely to exceed the shipowner's limit under the 1992 Civil Liability Convention.
<b>Action to be taken:</b>	Information to be noted.

#### 1 **The incident**

1.1 On 19 March 1999, the fully laden bunkering tanker *Sea Brothers 1* (391 GRT), registered in the Philippines, capsized and sank in seven metres of water after striking a breakwater in Manila Harbour (Philippines). Approximately 280 tonnes of bunker fuel escaped from damaged tanks, the main part of the oil being confined to the harbour.

1.2 The *Sea Brothers 1* was entered in the Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association (Bermuda) Ltd (Steamship Mutual).

#### 2 **Clean-up**

2.1 The clean-up operations were led by the Philippine Coast Guard with the assistance of personnel from the Department of the Environment. Dispersant chemicals were used initially, followed by containment and recovery after the oil had become weathered.

2.2 A team of divers sealed the vessel's tanks and the shipowner appointed a salvage company to remove the remaining 90 tonnes of oil. This oil was pumped out and the vessel was refloated on 19 April 1999 without further spillage.

### **3 Claims for compensation**

3.1 The Steamship Mutual has been notified of claims for clean-up costs of US\$1.5 million (£940 000). The Club has also indicated that fishery claims are unlikely, since the incident occurred in the harbour area. It is likely that the shipowner will present a claim in respect of the costs of cleaning the hull of a vessel in the harbour.

3.2 The limitation amount applicable to the *Sea Brothers 1* is 3 million SDR (£3.6 million). In the circumstances, therefore, it is unlikely that the total amount of all established claims arising out of this incident will exceed the maximum amount of compensation available under the 1992 Civil Liability Convention, but this cannot yet be ruled out.

### **4 Action to be taken by the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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