

GLOBALPANDI

Circular for P & I Clubs

DATE: 5th JUNE 2010

Correspondents for:

Britannia, British Marine, Charterers P&I Club, GARD, ITIC, Navigators, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), North of England P&I Club, Raets Club, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, South of England, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC).

Significant oil slick in Maracaibo Lake

In the last days a significant oil slick at the Maracaibo Lake has been reported, causing alarm among the population and the authorities, as it has affected seriously fishing and birds and due to currents is moving from south to north. Nevertheless, it was not until Friday 4th June 2010 when the Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA, Western Division, issued a formal statement informing "that there have not been alterations on its operations that might had caused the recent outflow of hydrocarbon fluids in the Maracaibo Lake, western state of Zulia".

According to a press report by the Bolivarian Press Agency released on 5th June 2010, PDVSA activated a plan for collection of the oil that came out this week in the nearby areas of the navigation channel. Referring to the causes of the outflow the Minister of Energy and Petroleum, Mr. Rafael Ramírez, declared that "we will determine its origin and its causes, to see if there was a leak. Remember that in the Lake there are 11,000 active wells, 45,000 kilometers of pipelines and between 60 and 70 years of exploitation, so it is something that can happen, so we will need to verify whether it is a leak, repair and solve all the damage".

A Regional Committee for Hydrocarbons Spills with participation of PDVSA, Coastguard, Ministry of Environment and the maritime authority (INEA) has been set up, in order to initiate a formal investigation about the event. Also an investigation is being advanced by the agency in charge of the conservation of the lake (Iclam).

The slick is said to be now closed to Bajo Grande terminal, for which reason ships navigating in the surrounding areas are advised to take extra precautions.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

GLOBALPANDI, S.A.

Phones: +58-242-3641801/3641026/3641798

Fax: +58-242-3640998

E-mail: mail@globalpandi.com

Webpage: www.globalpandi.com

AOH: +58-412-4210036

Contact: Mr. José Alfredo Sabatino Pizzolante.