



Dear Mariners,

The year 2008 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Amver, the global ship reporting system that is used voluntarily to support maritime search and rescue operations. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO), which, this year, is celebrating 60 years since the adoption of its constitution, shares a common goal with Amver in promoting cooperation aiming at enhancing maritime safety, security and environmental protection.

Amver was established in 1958 to help mariners help one another and has, ever since, offered a sound technological framework of service to the maritime community. Through your voluntary participation and with the support of dedicated service providers, the United States Coast Guard's Amver central database compiles information on ships' positions, which is available to any recognised SAR authority or rescue coordination centre. These entities can obtain Amver information or surface pictures (SURPIC) of ships, which can, in turn, respond to distress situations as they may unfold.

Since its inception, countless lives have been helped, in many instances rescued under difficult circumstances, thanks to the worldwide use of Amver. Many of you have been called upon to assist in distress cases, and you have responded willingly, courageously and with excellent results. Those assisted salute you – as do I on behalf of the maritime community and as a fellow mariner. But the efforts of those who have participated and have not yet been called upon are just as important to the Amver programme. Your participation is, therefore, vital in the cooperative and humanitarian service, which Amver continues to provide selflessly to the maritime community.

I am confident that all seafarers join me in wishing the Amver family heartfelt thanks and continued success in its Golden Jubilee year.

Yours sincerely,

E.E. Mitropoulos
Secretary-General

All AMVER Participants Past, Present and Future