

Background Information

What is the International Maritime Organization (IMO)?

Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, the IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 169 Member States and three Associate Members. The IMO's primary purpose is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping and its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping. IMO is governed by an Assembly of members and is financially administered by a Council of members elected from the Assembly. The work of IMO is conducted through five committees and these are supported by technical subcommittees.

The web site address of IMO is <http://www.imo.org>

What is the International Maritime Rescue Federation?

The **International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)** (formerly *The International Lifeboat Federation*) brings the world's maritime search and rescue organisations together in one truly global and internationally well-accredited body. IMRF's member organisations, from over 65 different countries, openly share their life saving-ideas, technologies and experiences and freely cooperate with one another to achieve their common humanitarian aim: "**Preventing loss of life in the world's waters**". The nomination of the CCGA members for the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea was made to IMO through the IMRF.

The web site address of the IMRF is <http://www.international-maritime-rescue.org>

What is the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary?

The **Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary** or **CCGA** is a Canada-wide volunteer maritime association dedicated to marine Search and Rescue (SAR) and the promotion of Boating Safety, through association with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) under the auspices of Canada's National Search and Rescue Program.

CCGA members are recreational boaters and commercial fishermen who assist the Canadian Coast Guard with Search and Rescue (SAR) as well as boating safety education.

The CCGA permits the CCG to provide marine SAR coverage in many isolated areas of Canada's coastlines without having to maintain an active base and/or vessels in those areas. The auxiliary is dedicated to providing a permanent day and night search and rescue service to cover maritime requirements in Canada and prevent the loss of life and injury.

The Web site address of the CCGA is www.ccg-gcac.org

What is the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea?

This annual award was established in 2007 by the IMO to provide international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery, displaying outstanding courage in attempting to save life at sea or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment.

In 2009, a total of 32 nominations from 12 IMO Member States and four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status were received and considered by an Assessment Panel consisting of experts nominated by various NGOs. A Panel of Judges then met, under the chairmanship of the Council Chairman, with the participation of the Chairmen of IMO's Maritime Safety; Marine Environment Protection; Legal; Technical Co operation; and Facilitation Committees.

When will the Certificates be presented?

Certificates will be presented at a formal Awards ceremony to be held at IMO Headquarters on Monday, 23 November 2009, the first day of the 26th session of the IMO Assembly, in the presence of all delegates.