

## CIRCULAR TO ALL CLUBS 16 – 2011

### ITAJAI – PORT SITUATION AFTER WEEKS OF HEAVY RAINS

In November 2008, after weeks of heavy rain, the city and port of Itajai, as well as many towns and cities up the Itajai-Acu valley, were hit by devastating floods and landslides. It took over two years to rebuild the port, during which time a dredging programme was begun, to increase draft from 11m to 14m. Dredging is over 80% done, but there are still areas of 13m and a rock outcropping to be eliminated.

This year, again, weeks of heavy rain have brought river levels up and floods have affected an estimated 40% of the city, about half the area flooded in 2008.

However, the fear that the flood could have other consequences to the Port Complex of Rio Itajai-Acu is confirmed, but it seems limited to subsidence at Berth 1, built after the last floods by APM Terminals at a cost of \$ 70 million and which began operating in 2009.

During an assessment of the port infrastructure, it was found that said berth had a lowering in its beams and platform support, which could jeopardize operations. The gap in the structure would be 15 to 20 inches, but the main concern is with the possible progression of the sinking. The berth is being monitored.



The Minister of the Ports, Leonidas Cristino, made yesterday an emergency visit to Itajaí in order to check the situation and at the end announced that the dredging of the channel to the port complex shall be enhanced. The flood that inundated cities of the Itajaí Valley may have carried sediment to the bottom of the Itajai-Acu river, which decreases the depth and makes the maneuvering of large ships more difficult. Meanwhile, the operations are suspended in the port complex due to the strong current – up to 10kt – that makes maneuvering risky; vessels are being diverted to other ports or waiting outside. Silting will be determined once the current has returned to its normal speed.

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