



Notice to Competitors No.2

DATE OF PUBLICATION:
June 7, 2012

Safety Items

Japan Tsunami Debris

The March, 2011 tsunami which affected northern Japan generated large amounts of seaborne debris which is now being driven by wind and currents across the North Pacific Ocean. This debris may pose a significant hazard to navigation during the 2012 Victoria to Maui International Yacht Race, and return delivery passages after completion of the race. Competitors are advised that they should be particularly vigilant and maintain an appropriate look-out by all available means.

The United States Department of Transport Marine Administration (MARAD) advisory is available at www.marad.dot.gov - click on "News Items" then "Marine Advisories".

More information is available on the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration website at: <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/japanfaqs.html>

Recent Tragedies During Competitive Racing Events

Two tragedies involving loss of life have occurred during recent competitive sailing events on the US West Coast. Preliminary recommendations from a panel appointed by U.S. Sailing to investigate the incident at Farallon Islands on April 14, 2012 are available at: [www.offshore.ussailing.org/SAS/General Information/Current Safety Studies](http://www.offshore.ussailing.org/SAS/General_Information/Current_Safety_Studies)

The safety protocols of Vic-Maui are generally aligned with these recommendations.

Competitors are reminded that the *ISAF Offshore Special Regulations* are designed to enhance the safety of participants. Particular attention is drawn to use of lifejackets, safety harnesses and safety tethers as referenced in Offshore Special Regulation 5.01 and 5.02, including 5.02.7 in the Notice of Race, Appendix A. Competitors are also reminded take particular note of all hazards to navigation, including wave development and lee shores.

-- end--