

Cape Town, 2 April 2019

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I address this letter to the worldwide ham radio community as the captain of the MV Atlantic Tuna vessel and as a person who didn't deal with amateur radio expeditions and long distance radio contacts until the 3YØI Amateur Radio Expedition in 2019.

I hereby confirm that I have all necessary qualifications and thanks to my over 20 years of sea experience – all necessary experience and knowledge in navigating the Northern and Southern Seas, including safe travelling to such locations the Sub-Antarctic island of Bouvet.

As the ham radio community had already been informed, on 27 of Marc, 2019, approx. just 70 nautical miles off Bouvet Island, I was forced to take the very hard, conscious and responsible decision to aboard our plan to reach and land at the island. We have been unlucky and missed a necessary 6-7 hours of "weather window" to reach the island safely.

The vessel has been hit by a sudden extremely severe cyclone storm that formed within just 1 hour and cut us off the island. The storm that has been classified as category 2 and resulted in serious and unreparable damages at the sea. The wind speed reached over 160km/h. Waves containing pieces of ice reached from 12 to 14 meters hit and destroyed our radar, satellite and communication equipment that was installed at the very top of the vessel's mast. It's very likely the hit was that catastrophic as there were pieces of ice. We also lost so called VSAT device, cutting off any chance of satellite navigation and ability to download necessary weather reports and forecasts, so much essential during navigating Southern seas. Since we also lost HF and VHF antennas, we weren't able to maintain obligatory marine radio communications. Additional circumstances didn't help at all; during such violent stormy conditions it's been simply impossible to use our satellite phones for additional navigation data – those phones do not work inside the ship's captain bridge. And opening any of the bridge's doors in such dangerous conditions could be catastrophic, and jeopardizing the team and crew lives.

I consider my decision as the only responsible and legitimate one I could take at that particular time, bearing in mind that I have been responsible for 3YØI team and my crew members sailing through the most demanding and dangerous waters in the world.

I must admit, I have been totally impressed by how the amateur radio expeditioners dealt with the extreme circumstances and helped me and my crew to maintain the vessel in such difficult moments. I could easily see that the professional certified trainings courses they have received in South Africa over past 6 months resulted in their professional actions and ability to face one of the biggest dangers one may encounter on routes just like to Bouvet Island. The 3YØI team, as well as my own crew, have also been technically and logistically prepared to the endeavor in a fully professional way I have rarely seen among other participants of similar projects in the

past. I also wish to add, the amateur team has been fully involved in renovation and preparations of the MV Atlantic Tuna since the very beginning of the project, resulting in even better knowledge of sea conditions, technical and safety requirements that every individual heading this South has to obligatory know.

All the 3YØI members sacrificed an enormous amount of personal time, equipment, resources, health and huge money to try to reach Bouvet Island.

Given this, and in connection to the events near Bouvet Island, my appreciation for their exceptional input to the project and my work, I hereby declare the world wide amateur radio community that I have taken a decision to return to Bouvet Island with the 3YØI team once all necessary repairs and technical examination of my vessel take place. Once all damages get repaired I will analyze further weather forecast and will announce with the 3YØI team the best possible dates of our another attempt to reach and land at Bouvet Island. The dates are to be reasonable, both keeping in mind safety and financial circumstances of the project.

I also personally declare sympathy to the team and amateur radio enthusiasts around the world , waiting this long to be able to make a contact from and to Bouvet Island. With a full declaration of my positive I also declare that with my absolutely positive attitude to all of the radio amateurs, I have decided to contribute financially to the second attempt to conquer Bouvet Island. I deeply hope that weather conditions during our next trip will be kinder to us and will help to carry out the entire expedition.

Do not lose hopes for putting Bouvet Island onto radio waves as early as this year. The Island is still there, waiting for us, even though it demands a higher price and even bigger dedication to reach. We definitely don't give up on our plans and I can ensure I can't hardly wait to go down there, and to any other place around the world, with the 3YØI team again as soon as all circumstances are in favor of our mutual plans.

With my deepest respect and cordial greetings to the amateur radio community and the 3YØI team



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