

**No. 27590**

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**MEXICO  
and  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Agreement on maritime search and rescue. Signed at Mexico  
City on 7 August 1989**

*Authentic texts: Spanish and English.*

*Registered by Mexico on 25 October 1990.*

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**MEXIQUE  
et  
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**

**Accord sur la recherche et le sauvetage en mer. Signé à  
Mexico le 7 août 1989**

*Textes authentiques : espagnol et anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Mexique le 25 octobre 1990.*

# AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States:

NOTING the great importance of rendering assistance to persons in distress at sea; and

RECOGNIZING that the 1935 Convention between the United Mexican States and the United States of America for the Assistance to and Salvage of Vessels in Territorial Waters,<sup>2</sup> and the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue,<sup>3</sup> provide a sound basis for improving cooperation in the field of maritime search and rescue;

Have agreed as follows:

## ARTICLE I

### Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth guidelines for cooperation between the maritime search and rescue authorities of the Governments of the United Mexican States (hereinafter Mexico) and United States of America (hereinafter United States) in responding to or coordinating the response to distress cases in which life or property is threatened at sea.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 25 June 1990, the date on which the Parties notified each other of the completion of the necessary domestic legal requirements, in accordance with article IX.

<sup>2</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. CLXVIII, p. 135.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1405, p. 97.

## Article II

Operational Entities

A. The Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard, respectively, are the recognized authorities in Mexico and the United States for matters relating to maritime search and rescue. As the unified organizations in their nations responsible for the maintenance and safety of life and property at sea, the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard may respond to a wide variety of incidents at sea without regard to the nationality of those in danger or distress. Resources of the Parties for coordinating and responding to such incidents include rescue coordination centers, rescue vessels, and rescue aircraft.

B. It is recognized that both the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard have other responsibilities in addition to safety of life and property at sea. The availability of resources to respond to specific incidents is understood to be dependent upon funding and the requirements of other missions.

## ARTICLE III

Cooperation in Search and Rescue

## A. Exchange of Information

To the extent that it contributes to increased effectiveness of maritime search and rescue or to preventing the need for such search and rescue, available information will be freely exchanged between the Mexican Navy and the United

States Coast Guard. The exchange will include but not be limited to information about the following areas for each Party:

1. Search and rescue agency organization.
2. Rescue coordination centers, including locations, areas of responsibility, TELEX numbers, telephone numbers, and other communication or general capabilities.
3. Search and rescue procedures and facilities.
4. Special services available (e.g. the Automated Mutual-assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER), Computer-aided Search Planning (CASP), medical facilities, fueling facilities, etc.).
5. International search and rescue projects of common interest.
6. Search and rescue-related technical information, including results of and plans for research and development.
7. Development and operation of vessel reporting systems to be used exclusively for search and rescue purposes.

#### B. Search and Rescue Operations

The Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard will work both jointly and independently to the extent practicable to facilitate cooperation in search and rescue, to improve search and rescue response capabilities, and to enhance safety at sea. Such efforts will include but not be limited to the following areas:

1. Development, establishment, and use of common search and rescue procedures, including procedures for requesting and rendering search and rescue assistance, and ensuring the closest practicable coordination between the maritime rescue

coordination centers of the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard. It is understood that, once a rescue coordination center of one Party requests assistance in a search and rescue case from the other Party, each rescue coordination center will keep the other informed of the progress and outcome of the case.

2. Provision for prompt permission for entry of search and rescue units of one Party into or over the territorial sea of the other Party as required.

3. Arrangement for rescue units to respond from both the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard, if appropriate, to effectively handle a case of distress at sea.

4. Establishment of means of communication to be used in joint search and rescue operations, using internationally designated distress and calling frequencies, designating common working frequencies, and providing for checks of communication channels if needed.

5. Establishment of appropriate and reliable lines of communication between the rescue coordination centers of the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard. Such communications will normally be accomplished via TELEX to facilitate translation. However, recognizing the value of timely search and rescue communications, the Mexican Navy and the United States Coast Guard shall each designate two rescue coordination centers, one near the Pacific Coast and one near the Gulf Coast, and arrange to have a bilingual (Spanish and English-speaking) person on call at these rescue coordination centers to assist with search and rescue communications when appropriate.