

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
2100 Stella Court
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1067

IN RE:	:	
	:	
INTERNATIONAL WATER MARINE	:	
SAFETY FOUNDATION	:	ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST
	:	AND NOTICE OF HEARING
AND	:	
	:	
NORTH AMERICAN MARINE	:	
GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.	:	

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Insurance ("Department") is charged with the responsibility of protecting insurance consumers and regulating the insurance industry pursuant to Title 39 of the Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder.

WHEREAS, upon investigation, the Superintendent has been advised that International Water Marine Safety Foundation, formerly operating as International Water Safety Foundation, (hereinafter referred to as "IWMSF") and North American Marine General Insurance Co. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "North American") (collectively referred to herein as "Parties"), individually and/or collectively, have engaged in the business of insurance by holding themselves out as authorized to engage in the business of property and casualty insurance. The Parties are not licensed under R.C. Chapter 39 and are not authorized to engage in the business of insurance or to provide insurance benefits or coverage in the State of Ohio. The Parties' conduct is causing or is about to cause substantial and material harm. The grounds are alleged below.

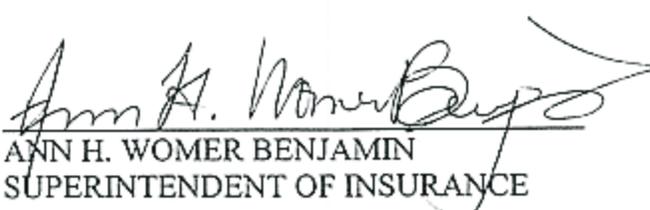
1. The last known operating address for IWMSF is 905 Michele-Bohec Blvd, Suite 204, Blainville (Quebec) J7C 5J6, Canada;
2. The last known operating address for North American is P.O. Box 6-1097, El Dorado, Panama, Republic of Panama;
3. IWMSF is a membership organization that offers various services and benefits including insurance underwritten by North American;
4. The Parties solicited and sold insurance products including a Group Wet Ocean Marine Master Policy providing water craft coverage via unsolicited facsimiles to agents and its internet site at <http://www.iwsf.us>;
5. In June of 2001, Michael Keys, an Ohio resident, purchased water craft insurance benefits or coverage with the Parties;
6. Based upon the Parties' representations, Mr. Keys believed that he was insured by the Parties and relied on that belief;
7. Mr. Keys paid approximately five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) in premiums for purported coverage from June 11, 2001 through June 11, 2003;

8. In December of 2001, Charles Hancock, an Ohio resident, purchased water craft insurance benefits or coverage with the Parties;
9. Based upon the Parties' representations, Mr. Hancock believed that he was insured by the Parties and relied on that belief;
10. Mr. Hancock paid approximately four hundred and ten dollars (\$410.00) in premiums for purported coverage from January 11, 2002 through January 11, 2003;
11. The Parties are not licensed as an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Ohio;
12. On August 31, 1998, the Office of Insurance Commissioner, State of Washington, issued a Cease and Desist Order against IWMSF for soliciting insurance in the State of Washington without a license or authorization; and
13. On September 1, 2000, September 8, 2000, March 26, 2002, and June 4, 2002, the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Texas issued Cease and Desist Orders against North American and IWMSF for engaging in the unauthorized business of insurance and soliciting and unauthorized insurance product in the State of Texas without a license or authorization.
14. On October 18, 2002, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services of the State of Oregon issued a Cease and Desist Order against North American for transacting insurance as an unauthorized insurer.

R.C. 3905.01 requires a license by the Department to procure an application or quote premiums for, discuss coverages of, or solicit, negotiate, effect, procure, place, write, deliver, renew, or bind, a policy of insurance through any medium for risks residing, located, or performed in the State of Ohio. R.C. 3927.01 requires all foreign insurance companies to be licensed and/or authorized to conduct business in the State of Ohio. Since the Parties are not licensed or authorized, the Parties have engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and is in violation of R.C. 3901.20 as defined in R.C. 3901.21(A) and/or (B).

PURSUANT TO R.C. 3901.221, IWMSF AND NORTH AMERICAN ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST FROM ENGAGING IN INSURANCE ACTIVITIES that require a license to engage in the business of an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Ohio unless and until it complies with the statutes and rules listed above. A hearing to determine the continuation or revocation of this Order, along with any other remedies available under R.C. 3901.221, shall be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 4, 2003 at the Ohio Department of Insurance, 2100 Stella Court, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1067.

5/22/03
Date


ANN H. WOMER BENJAMIN
SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE