

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

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CIRCULAR LETTER 115/2005
15 November 2005

**7th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON PROMULGATION OF RADIO
NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS (CPRNW)**

Reference: IHB CL 101/2005 dated 28 September 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The 7th meeting of CPRNW was held at the IHB from 13 - 15 September 2005. The meeting was attended by 15 representatives of the following MS: Argentina, Australia, France, Greece, Japan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. The meeting was also attended by 4 observers from the following organizations: IMO, IMSO, Inmarsat and WMO.

The summary report of the meeting is available from the IHO web site www.iho.shom.fr > Committees > CPRNW. The following is a brief report on the major issues discussed at the meeting:

GMDSS Master Plan - It is important for the safety of Navigation that MS maintain their entries in the GMDSS Master Plan. The latest version of the Master Plan is GMDSS/Circ.8 Corr 11 which is a consolidated text and can be downloaded from the IHO web site www.iho.shom.fr >INT Organizations >IMO. The form for submitting amendments to the GMDSS Master Plan, Annex 14, is also available for download in both 'Word' and 'PDF' formats.

WWNWS Transmission of additional information - The chairman reported on the discussions that had taken place with the World Health Organization (WHO) about the possible inclusion of Health Warnings of interest to the mariner in the WWNWS. This matter requires discussion within IMO and further discussion with the WHO. NAVAREA coordinators should consult on this matter, within their areas, and provide feedback to the Chairman. NAVAREA II, France, introduced their submission to COMSAR 9 for the inclusion of ISPS Security Level Warnings within the WWNWS. Discussion centred around whether these should be considered as 'NAV Warnings' and therefore part of IMO resolution A.706(17) or 'other MSI' and therefore part of A.705(17). NAVAREA II agreed to resubmit their proposal, with additional clarification, to COMSAR 10. CPRNW noted the decision of COMSAR 9 to allow the inclusion of Tsunami warnings in the WWNWS (COMSAR/Circ. 36) pending a review of IMO resolution A.706(17).

WWNWS Documentation - In reviewing the range of WWNWS documentation: IHO S-53, S-53 App1, IMO publications and Resolutions; it was considered that there were some inconsistencies between documents and that a review of all documentation for currency, consistency and completeness was required. This review should also include other relevant matters such as the 'additional information' discussed in the previous section. A Correspondence Group (CG) was established to begin this task. It is anticipated that the CG will meet in the UK during the week following COMSAR 10, which will be held at IMO HQ in London from 6 - 10 March 2006, to finalise the work and prepare texts for approval by MS and submission to COMSAR 11. Membership of the CG is open to all MS and anyone wishing to join should contact the CPRNW chairman Mr Peter Doherty (Peter.M.Doherty@nga.mil).

Business Continuity Plans - During the discussion on Navtex and SafetyNET the matter of disseminating MSI in the event of a catastrophic failure of a transmission system, as was the case when Hurricane Katrina destroyed the New Orleans Navtex transmitter, was raised. All National and NAVAREA Coordinators were urged to consider the preparation of a Business Continuity Plan.

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters - The Federal State Unitary Hydrographic Department (FSUHD) of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, who are responsible for the dissemination of MSI in Russian Arctic waters, presented their proposal for the establishment of two new NAVAREAs in Arctic Waters (CPRNW 2005/3/11), which had been presented to MSC 80 (MSC 80/13/2). CPRNW also noted the Norwegian reservations expressed at MSC 80. MSC 80 instructed COMSAR 10 to consider the matter and report to MSC 81. It was the view of CPRNW that: a) the provision of MSI in all Arctic Waters should be considered, b) that this must be done in consultation with the WMO, c) that SAR matters should be considered and d) that the means of transmitting MSI must be taken into account (Inmarsat coverage is only guaranteed between 76N and 76 S). Given the timescale and the need to consult with countries, not present at CPRNW7 and other organizations it was considered unlikely that a definitive proposal could be prepared for approval by IHO MS prior to the deadline for submission to COMSAR 10. It was suggested that other bodies of water such as the Caspian Sea might be addressed at the same time as the Arctic. Inmarsat C terminals are currently coded to include the Caspian Sea within NAVAREA III (Mediterranean and Black Seas), however a Russian Federation Navtex station on the Caspian Sea is currently coordinated through NAVAREA XIII. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been issued with B1 characters to provide both International and National Navtex services in the Caspian Sea but these have not been assigned to a NAVAREA for coordination purposes.

Navtex Service Areas - The Chairman of the IMO Navtex Coordinating Panel emphasised the need for Navtex stations to have clearly defined 'service areas' in order that mariners will know which station will provide the information that they require. The NAVAREA III coordinator, Spain, introduced paper CPRNW 2005/3/18 concerning the designation of 'service areas' in the Mediterranean, following a request from Italy to relocate their existing stations and from Tunisia for the establishment of a new station. CPRNW were not able to discuss this matter fully as not all interested countries were present at the meeting. The NAVAREA III coordinator has arranged a meeting, to be held at the IHB on 18/19 January 2006, to discuss this issue and report back to CPRNW8.

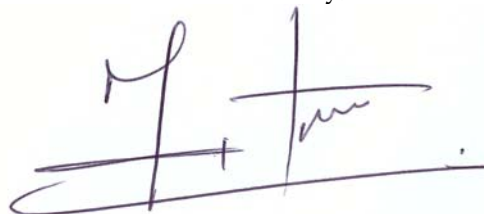
IMO resolution A.888(21) Criteria for the provision of mobile-satellite communication systems in the GMDSS. - IMSO stated that they had been tasked to chair a CG to revise both this resolution and the IMSO Public Services Agreement with Inmarsat, following the decision to open GMDSS to other satellite service providers. It was important that NAVAREAs provide information regarding the minimum baseline requirements that are acceptable for such services. It was considered unlikely that such a 'requirement' could be prepared, reviewed by CPRNW and approved by IHO MS in time for submission to COMSAR 10. Nevertheless NAVAREA coordinators should communicate their baseline requirements to the Chairman of CPRNW as soon as possible.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing - The Chairman introduced a "WWNWS CD " which he had produced. The idea was to include all information relative to the WWNWS in a single place. The CD would also contain presentations on the WWNWS, which could be used to promote the WWNWS and the provision of MSI. It was intended that the CD would be regularly updated and made freely and widely available. All members of the CPRNW were invited to review the contents and pass comments to the Chairman.

CPRNW Terms of Reference - As reported at the Reference, CPRNW considered that it needed to have annual rather than biennial meetings in order to be able to interact in a timely manner with the IMO and other IHO committees. The next meeting has been arranged for 12 - 15 September 2006 and Argentina has provisionally offered to host the meeting.

Submission to IMO COMSAR 10 - It is intended that the IHB and CPRNW Chairman prepare an information paper for COMSAR 10 reporting on the outcome of CPRNW7 as stated above. MS are invited to provide any comments by **9 December** in order for the IHB to meet the deadline for submission of papers to COMSAR 10.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President