



IHB File No. S3/3075

CIRCULAR LETTER 21/2005
18 February 2005

REPORT ON COMSAR 9 MEETING AT IMO

Reference: CL 11/2005 dated 21 January 2005.

Dear Hydrographer,

The 9th meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Communications, Search and Rescue (COMSAR) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from 7-11 February 2005.

Following the meeting between the Secretary General of IMO, the President of IHO and the Secretary General of IALA, as reported at the Reference, the IHO submitted a paper to COMSAR regarding possible amendments to the WWNWS to fully incorporate the transmission of tsunami warnings.

The schedule of COMSAR 9 was rearranged to permit a full day's debate, on Wednesday 9 February, of issues relating to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster. The President of IHO gave a presentation outlining the actions taken and in progress by the IHO. Presentations were also made by IMO and IALA. A drafting group was established under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty, Chairman of IHO-CPRNW, to review the documents submitted to COMSAR in relation to the WWNWS. The Sub-Committee accepted a COMSAR Circular prepared by the drafting group which provides an interim mechanism whereby tsunami and other disaster warnings could be passed to the WWNWS for immediate transmission. This mechanism would take immediate effect pending a more detailed review by CPRNW, which is due to meet 13 - 15 September 2005. The CPRNW position on this issue will be passed to MS for approval and will then be submitted to COMSAR 10 for incorporation into the WWNWS.

The final text of the COMSAR Circular will be placed on the IHO website, under the section "Tsunami Disaster Information for the Indian Ocean", as soon as it has been finalized by IMO.

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