



IHB File N° S3/3084

CIRCULAR LETTER 78/2006
27 November 2006

8th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON PROMULGATION OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL
WARNINGS (CPRNW)

Reference: A. IHB CL 112/2005 dated 11 November 2005
B. IHB CL 34/2006 dated 27 March 2006

Dear Hydrographer,

The 8th meeting of CPRNW was held at the Regente Palace Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12 – 15 September 2006. The IHB thanks the Argentinean Hydrographic Office for agreeing to host this meeting and for the excellent facilities provided. The meeting was attended by 21 representatives from the following 15 Member States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, India, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. The meeting was also attended by the IHB and 3 observers from IMSO, Inmarsat and WMO. This was the first annual meeting of CPRNW held in accordance with the revised TOR as set out in Reference A.

The decision to hold CPRNW meetings at venues other than the IHB, in order to attract a wider attendance by NAVAREA and national co-ordinators, was successful in that Brazil, Chile and Ecuador attended CPRNW for the first time. CPRNW was also pleased to have attendance by representatives from Canada and Norway, potential NAVAREA co-ordinators under the expansion of the WNWWS into Arctic Waters. Indeed with the attendance by 11 NAVAREA co-ordinators, 1 Sub-area co-ordinator and 2 of the 3 potential new NAVAREA co-ordinators this was the largest gathering in the history of CPRNW.

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

WWNWS Documentation – The Correspondence Group (CG) established to review all WNWWS documentation has made steady progress and took the opportunity of several members attending COMSAR 10 at IMO Headquarters in London to hold a meeting and progress the work. In order to achieve consistency throughout the documentation, the CG decided to take a top down approach and focussed on IMO Assembly resolutions A.705(17) (*Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information*) and A.706(17) (*World-Wide Navigational Warning Service*). Subsequently the revised information will be cascaded down into the IMO, IHO and WMO publications. During CPRNW8 the work of the CG was reviewed and further revision completed. Additional work is required before these are ready for submission to IMO and it was agreed that the CG should continue its work, including the holding of a further meeting in conjunction with COMSAR 11. CPRNW will then review the documents prior to their submission for approval by IHO and WMO and onward submission to COMSAR 12 in early 2008. Membership of the CG is open to all Member States and anyone wishing to join should contact the CPRNW Chairman Mr Peter Doherty (Peter.M.Doherty@nga.mil).

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters – As reported in Reference B the IMO COMSAR 10 established a joint IMO / IHO / WMO CG to consider the expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters under the chairmanship of Peter Doherty, Chairman of CPRNW. The chairman reported that there was consensus within the CG that the new NAVAREAs should extend to 90 N, that they should operate on a 24/7 basis, that there will be 5 new NAVAREAs with agreement in principle that Canada would be the NAVAREA co-ordinator for NAVAREAs XVII and XVIII, Norway for NAVAREA XIX and the Russian Federation (Federal State Unitary Hydrographic Department (FSUHD) of the Ministry of Transport) for NAVAREAs XX and XXI. There remained a need to complete agreement on the boundaries between these NAVAREAs, however it was reported that the three countries concerned had agreed that they would continue to discuss this issue and were confident of agreement. The matter of transmission remains to be resolved and Canada, Norway, IMSO and Inmarsat agreed to research the northern limit of ships' tracks and the practical limits of Inmarsat coverage. The Russian Federation will be asked to participate in this research. CPRNW endorsed the work of the CG and expressed satisfaction at the level of agreement that had been reached. The Chairman will report to COMSAR 11 where the matter will be discussed further.

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover other areas - It was noted that Navtex stations operated by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran were currently in operation in the Caspian Sea. The Russian Federation Station was co-ordinated through NAVAREA XIII although Inmarsat C terminals are currently coded to include the Caspian Sea within NAVAREA III (Mediterranean and Black Seas). The Iranian station has not been assigned to a NAVAREA for coordination purposes. CPRNW whilst accepting that an agreement on co-ordination within large bodies of "inland" waters such as the Caspian Sea was desirable did not wish to see this issue delaying progress with agreement on the expansion of the WWNWS into the Arctic. CPRNW accepted a proposal from IMSO to lead the preparation of a submission to IMO seeking clarification of the means to handle "inland sea areas".

Navtex Service Areas – The NAVAREA III co-ordinator reported on the successful outcome of the NAVAREA III meeting held at the IHB on 18 and 19 January 2006 where the relocation of existing transmitters, the positioning of new transmitters and the designation of service areas for all Navtex transmitters in the western Mediterranean were agreed. The Chairman congratulated NAVAREA III on reaching this agreement and held it up as an example for other NAVAREAs where there was a need to co-ordinate service areas.

IMO resolution A.888(21) Criteria for the provision of mobile-satellite communication systems in the GMDSS. – IMSO reported on the progress, within IMO, on the revision of this resolution, which is intended to open up the GMDSS to providers other than Inmarsat. COMSAR 10 had agreed to the revised text and forwarded it to MSC 81. The MSC however could not reach a consensus amid a debate on legal issues and invited further submissions to be sent to MSC 82 in Nov/Dec 2006 where it is hoped that the matter can be concluded. The two main issues of concern to the Commission are: that the conditions imposed on Inmarsat for the provision of GMDSS services in the current resolution should be applied to any new service provider because the requirements have not changed; and the possible cost implications for NAVAREAs if they are required to route messages to and monitor the transmission from multiple service providers. CPRNW urged its members to brief their maritime administrations on this matter prior to attendance at MSC 82.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing – The Chairman introduced the "WWNWS CD" which he had updated from that first issued at CPRNW7. 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 agreed that future editions should include the reports of CPRNW meetings where these are available digitally. All members of the CPRNW were invited to review the contents and pass comments to the Chairman. The CD will continue to be given a wide distribution.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course – The Chairman of CPRNW together with the Chairman and Secretary of the Navtex Coordinating Panel reported on the work that had taken place in developing a training course on MSI which would be delivered in the NAVAREA IV area in 2007. This course is part of the IHO Capacity Building Programme. A further course is planned for NAVAREA VII later in 2007.

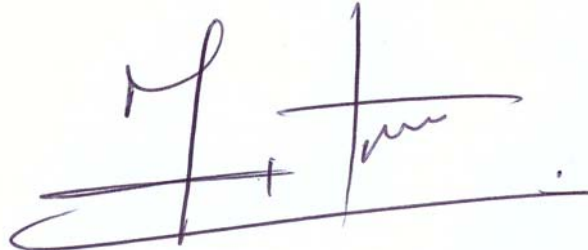
Outcome of the work of the SPWG - The Chairman and IHB reported on the work of the SPWG and the recommendations that were being put forward to the XVIIth IHC in May 2007. The Commission expressed concerns at the renaming of CPRNW i.e. from a Commission to a Sub-Committee. CPRNW was concerned that the status of the Commission, which had been in existence since 1977 and which had an important inter-relationship with other international bodies such as the IMO and WMO, would be diminished. Concern was also expressed as to delays that might be incurred in seeking IHO approval for proposals with the introduction of an additional Committee between CPRNW and the IHO MS.

Submission to IMO COMSAR 11 - It is intended that the IHB and CPRNW Chairman prepare a brief report on the outcome of CPRNW8, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to COMSAR 11.

Next Meeting - CPRNW9 is planned to take place at the IHB from 11 to 14 September 2007.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, with a smaller signature to the right.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President