



IHB File N° S3/3084

CIRCULAR LETTER 94/2007
29 October 2007

**9th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON PROMULGATION OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL
WARNINGS (CPRNW)**

Reference: CL 28/2007 dated 8 March

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 9th meeting of CPRNW was held at the IHB, Monaco, from 11 - 14 September 2007. The meeting was attended by 17 representatives from the following 13 Member States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, France, India, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. These included 9 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-area Co-ordinator and 2 of the 3 designated NAVAREA Co-ordinators for the Arctic. Observers from IMO, IMSO and WMO and representatives from the IHB also attended. At the invitation of CPRNW a representative from Iridium attended on 12 September in order to make a presentation on Iridium's capabilities for delivering MSI in Arctic waters.

2 The full report of the meeting will be 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:

Election of Chairman

3 This being the first meeting of the Commission since the XVIIth IHC the Commission unanimously re-elected Mr Peter Doherty, USA and NAVAREA IV/XII Coordinator, as its Chairman. The Commission decided not to elect a Vice-chairman but acknowledged that given the revision of the IHO committee structure, due to come into force no later than 1 January 2009, and the revised rules and procedures adopted by the XVIIth IHC that it would have to reconsider this matter in the future and has put it on the agenda for CPRNW10.

WWNWS Documentation

4 CPRNW considered the work undertaken by the CG on reviewing IMO resolutions A.705(17) "Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information" and A.706(17) "World-wide Navigational Warning Service" and made some additional amendments. Following a further short period of consideration of the revised text by members of CPRNW these revised draft resolutions will be circulated to Member States for comment prior to their submission to COMSAR 12 for consideration by IMO. CPRNW reconfirmed an earlier decision to consider other WWNWS documentation in a logical sequence once the proposed amendments to A.705 and A.706 were approved by COMSAR and sent to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC).

Expansion of the WNWNS to cover Arctic Waters

5 CPRNW considered the decisions taken by COMSAR 11, as reported at the Reference, on the extension of the WNWNS into Arctic waters and the revised ToR given to the joint IMO/IHO/WMO CG on Arctic MSI Services. It was noted that whilst NAVAREA Co-ordinators had been agreed, an agreement on METAREA Co-ordinators was still required and WMO said that they would include this in their report to COMSAR 12. Since CPRNW the MSC has at its 83rd session approved the establishment of the five new NAVAREAS in the Arctic with co-ordination being provided by Canada (2), Norway (1) and the Russian Federation (2).

6 The means of delivering MSI to ships in Arctic waters remains to be determined. It was reported that Inmarsat coverage extends to 76N and possibly further. The Commission received a briefing from Iridium on the capabilities of their system in the Arctic and their ability to provide the services required by the GMDSS. However Iridium stated that this presentation did not infer that they would definitely be seeking approval to provide GMDSS services. Norway reported on how they were testing NAVTEX and MF voice communications within the new NAVAREA XIX and believed that NAVTEX could provide coverage within this area to 82N. The Chairman requested all parties to provide further information regarding the transmission of MSI in Arctic waters to the CG by 1 December 2007 such that this information could be incorporated into the CG report to COMSAR 12.

IMO resolution A.888(21) Criteria for the provision of mobile-satellite communication systems in the GMDSS.

7 MSO reported on the status of the revision of resolution A.888 (21) and that this was due for approval at MSC 83. The revised text with one small amendment has now been approved by MSC 83.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

8 The Commission received MSI self assessments from thirteen of the sixteen NAVAREAs, only NAVAREAs XIV (New Zealand), XV (Chile) and XVI (Peru) were not submitted. Reports were also received from the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Panel, the IMO SafetyNET Panel and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) all of whom attended the meeting.

Other means of MSI Distribution

9 The Commission received a briefing from the WMO representative on the development of the WMO Information System (WIS). It was agreed that this might, in the future, provide an alternative means of MSI dissemination and the WMO agreed to keep the Commission informed of future developments.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

10 The chairman reported on the successful completion of the first MSI training course which representatives from the UK and USA had delivered to the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea region as part of the IHO Capacity Building Programme. The excellent facilities and support provided by Jamaica was instrumental in assuring the success of this first course. A second course will be held in Mozambique in November 2007 and further courses are planned for 2008 and 2009.

Reorganisation of the IHO Committee Structure

11 The Chairman and the IHB briefed the Commission on the outcome of the XVIIth IHC and in particular the change of name to the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings Sub Committee (PRNW) under the Inter Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC). The Commission remained unhappy with the change of name but accepted that the reorganisation had been approved by Member States. The Commission noted that its meetings are currently scheduled for September in

order for it to prepare reports for submission to COMSAR which normally meets in February and that this might have to be reviewed if its reports now had to be submitted through the IRCC. The Commission in discussing its future name concluded that it was probably no longer appropriate to have the word "Radio" in the title. The Commission supported a suggestion from the Chairman that the acronym "WWNWS" was well known and understood and fully reflected the work of the Commission and that this might be an appropriate title to use. This matter will be the subject of a separate report to MS.

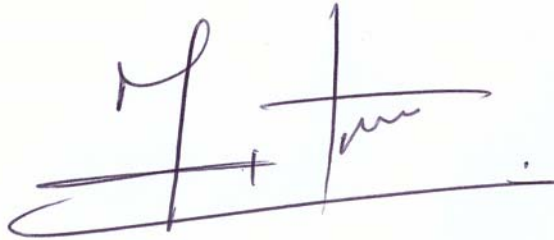
Submission to IMO COMSAR 12

12 It is intended that the IHB and CPRNW Chairman prepare a brief report on the outcome of CPRNW8, based on this CL, for submission to COMSAR 12. The matter of a name change would not be reported unless previously agreed by MS.

Next Meeting

13 CPRNW10 will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 26 - 29 August 2008. Meeting information will be made available from the IHO web site in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President