



IHB File No.S3/3055

**CIRCULAR LETTER 58/2008
8 July 2008**

54TH SESSION OF THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

References: a) CL 33/08 dated 2 April
b) CL 42/08 dated 29 April

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 54th session of the Safety of Navigation Sub-Committee (NAV) of the IMO was held at IMO Headquarters in London from 30 June - 4 July 2008. The IHO was represented by Vice Admiral Maratos, President, Captain Ward, Director and Lt Cdr Shipman, Professional Assistant for Hydrography. The IHB thanks the many Heads and representatives of Hydrographic Offices who attended NAV54 and provided support for the IHO. The Sub-Committee had a very full agenda, of which:

Agenda Item 3 "Routeing of Ships, ship reporting and related matters";
Agenda Item 5 "Amendments to the general provisions on ships' routeing";
Agenda Item 13 "Development of an E-Navigation Strategy"; and
Agenda Item 14 "Development of carriage requirements for ECDIS"

will be of particular interest to IHO Member States. The draft report of the NAV54 meeting (NAV54/WP.7) has been placed on the IHO web site (www.iho.int > INT Organizations > IMO) and will be replaced by the final report (NAV54/25) as soon as it is made available by the IMO. It is important to note that numerous amendments to the draft report were made which will appear subsequently in the final report.

Development of carriage requirements for ECDIS

2 The IHO submitted two documents under this agenda item:

NAV 54/14/5 Evaluation of Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC) Availability
NAV 53/14/6 Development of a comprehensive online catalogue of available official charts

Six further documents were submitted by Norway (NAV 54/14), ICS (NAV 54/14/1), United Kingdom (NAV 54/14/2), Australia (NAV 54/14/3 and Corrigendum), BIMCO/OCIMF (NAV54/14/4), and Liberia / Marshall Islands / Vanuatu (NAV54/14/7). All documents are available on the IHO web site. The IHO made a presentation on ENC availability and the IHO on-line chart catalogue on the first evening of the meeting week. The IHB had also prepared a series of posters showing the current and predicted availability of ENCs as well as others highlighting the work of the

IHO. These were displayed during the presentation and for several days afterwards. The presentation was well attended and many favourable comments were received.

3 During the discussion no States or Organizations opposed the introduction of a mandatory carriage requirement although a very small minority considered that specific dates could not be set until such time as ENC's were available rather than promised. The large majority of States and Organizations that spoke supported a compromise between the dates / classes of ship / tonnages proposed by Norway (NAV54/14) and the UK (NAV54/14/2). Representatives of Hydrographic Offices and the IHO reminded the Sub-Committee of the IHO's Resolution to provide an adequate coverage of ENC's by 2010 and of the IHO's Capacity Building activities in this matter together with its continued availability to provide assistance with ENC production.

4 Following the debate the Sub-committee agreed to a phased implementation of a mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS. The proposed dates for implementation are 2012 – 2018 depending on class of ship and tonnage. The Sub-committee also agreed to allow States to grant an exemption for ships due for retirement within 2 years of the relevant implementation date. The Sub-committee prepared draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/19 to reflect the mandatory carriage requirement. The Sub-committee, based on a proposal by Australia, also agreed to issue an SN/Circular entitled "Guidance on Transitioning from Paper Chart to ECDIS Navigation".

5 The Sub-committee, based on proposals from the IHO and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), adopted the following definition regarding an "Adequate ENC Coverage":
Sufficient ENC availability is equivalent to the best available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the coastal State.
The subject of ENC availability and Capacity Building for hydrographic capability was also raised under agenda item 13 on the "Development of an e-navigation Strategy" as reported below.

6 The amendments to SOLAS regulation V/19 will now go to the Maritime Safety Committee's (MSC) 85th session in November 2008 for approval and then to MSC 86 in May 2009 for adoption. MSC 85 will be invited to approve the SN/Circular. The MSC has also been invited to remove "Development of carriage requirements for ECDIS" from the Sub-committee's work programme.

Development of an E-Navigation Strategy

7 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Correspondence Group and other input papers and finalised a draft strategy for consideration by the MSC. The Sub-committee is also requesting the MSC to include a work programme item on "Development of an e-navigation strategy implementation plan" with four sessions to complete (2009-2012). ECDIS and the availability of ENC's are a major element of the strategy and the IHO was requested to continue providing the Sub-committee with annual updates on ENC availability and Capacity Building activities for the provision of ENC's of the waters of developing States and Small Island Developing States.

8 Clearly the request to IHO for annual reports will ensure that the matter of ENC availability, the IHO's commitment to deliver adequate ENC coverage in accordance with the resolution adopted at the XVIIth IHC, and the IHO's work to build hydrographic capability will remain in full view of the work of the IMO. As a consequence it is now vitally important that Member States cooperate to the fullest extent possible to ensure that such coverage is achieved by 2010, as has been clearly indicated to IMO.

Routeing of Ships, ship reporting and related matters

9 The Sub-Committee approved 7 new / revised Traffic Separation Schemes, 5 other routeing measures and 2 new / amended Mandatory Reporting Systems all of which will now go to the MSC for adoption at its 85th session in November 2008.

Amendments to the general provisions on ships' routeing

10 The IHO, together with Norway and the United Kingdom, requested MSC 82 to introduce a new work programme item on the agenda of the NAV Sub-committee to amend the General Provisions on Ships' Routeing (resolution A.572(14) as amended) to align the symbology used for archipelagic sea lanes and routeing systems boundaries with those now included in IHO publication M-4. NAV 54 approved the proposed amendments and forwarded them to the MSC for adoption subject to the approval of the Assembly.

Any Other Business

11 Under Any Other Business the IHO presented its document NAV54/INF.7 regarding the adoption of revised standards and specifications, namely: the 5th Edition of S-44; Edition 3.4 of S-52 Appendix 2 Annex A; and Edition 1.1 of S-63. These standards specifications are all referenced in IMO resolutions and the Sub-committee noted the information provided.

12 The United States introduced its document NAV54/INF.7 entitled "International Product Specification for Marine Environmental Protection Data to be used in conjunction with ENCs". The IHO informed the Sub-committee that this matter was being considered by the IHO's TSMAD and that any outcome would be reported to the Sub-Committee.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2009

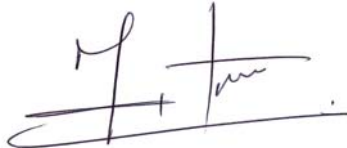
13 The Chairman, Mr Kees Polderman, of the Netherlands announced his retirement following 11 years as chairman of the NAV Sub-committee. The Vice Chairman, Mr Michael Sollosi of the United States was elected as the Chairman and Captain Raja Malik of Malaysia was elected as the Vice Chairman for 2009.

Dates for NAV 55

14 The 55th session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation is provisionally scheduled to be held there from 27 - 31 July 2009.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

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

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President