



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 65/2009
25 September 2009**

**1ST MEETING OF THE WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS SERVICE
SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The first meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee was held at the IHB in Monaco from Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 August 2009. The meeting was attended by 24 delegates from 14 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), Inmarsat and included representatives of 12 NAVAREA Co-ordinators. Two representatives from Iridium attended on Wednesday afternoon to give a presentation regarding Iridium's satellite service capabilities.

2 The full report of the meeting and all meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS1/WWNWS1.htm. The following is a brief summary of the major issues discussed at the meeting.

WWNWS Documentation

3 Following the approval by COMSAR13, and subsequent adoption by MSC86, of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information, WWNWS1 focused its attention on the International SafetyNET Manual. A revised draft had been prepared by the Document Review WG at its 6th meeting held at IMO in the week following COMSAR 13. This draft, together with additional comments from WWNWS members were further reviewed during the meeting. The text finalised at the meeting is currently with WWNWS members for any final comment prior to circulation to IHO Member States for approval and subsequent submission to COMSAR 14.

4 The Secretary of the Document Review WG will be preparing a draft revision of the NAVTEX Manual, incorporating consequential amendments to ensure consistency with the work already completed on IMO resolutions A.705(17) as amended and A.706(17) as amended, the Joint Manual on MSI and the International SafetyNET Manual. This draft will then be reviewed at the 7th Meeting of the Document Review WG which is planned to be held at IMO HQ in London from 15 - 19 March 2010, the week following COMSAR 14. It is intended that the text prepared at this meeting will be finalised at WWNWS2 meeting in August 2010 prior to circulation to IHO Member States and submission to COMSAR 15.

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters

5 Canada and Norway reported on their ongoing preparations to bring their new Arctic NAVAREAs to operational status in 2011. The Chairman provided information regarding the work of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO CG on Arctic MSI Services and reviewed the ToR approved by COMSAR13. The further information required in order to complete the tasks assigned in the ToR and prepare the report for COMSAR 14 were identified and deadlines agreed. The Chairman noted the absence of the Russian Federation at this meeting and reiterated the importance of this subject matter and the need for all parties involved to be present and to discuss the remaining salient issues.

On Wednesday afternoon two representatives from Iridium gave a presentation and answered questions regarding their company's satellite service capabilities. They indicated that Iridium was likely to request to become a GMDSS provider at MSC87 in May 2010

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

6 The Commission received MSI self assessments from all twenty one NAVAREAs. 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.

7 The IR of Iran re-iterated their desire, expressed at CPRNW10, to establish a Caspian Sea Sub-Area and their willingness to act as the Sub-Area Co-ordinator. The IR of Iran agreed to raise the matter at a meeting of the Caspian Sea Regional States which is due to be held in Olya Port, Astrakhan, Russian Federation, in April 2010 and report the outcome of this meeting to IMO and IHO.

8 Reports were received with respect to a new work programme item for IMO COMSAR to undertake a "*Scoping Exercise to establish the need for a review of the elements and procedures of the GMDSS*". It was agreed that this was an important item which needed to be considered alongside e-navigation. It was essential that the WWNWS, and individual NAVAREA Co-ordinators participated fully in the debate at IMO.

9 The representative from IMSO led a discussion on "Contingency Planning" stressing that it needed to cover the whole MSI process from the point where information was sent to the co-ordinator to its reception by the mariner. This topic has been included in the MSI Self Assessment report template which co-ordinators use to submit reports to WWNWS meetings.

10 The Chairman stated that he considered that the process for promulgating Piracy Warnings to mariners was now working well and he thanked the NAVAREA VIII Co-ordinator, India, and the NAVAREA IX Co-ordinator, Pakistan, for their assistance with this important matter.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

11 The meeting received reports on the preparations made, and those being taken, for the delivery of two MSI training courses: one for the EATHC in Accra Ghana in September; and one for the NIOHC and RSAHC in Oman in October. Further courses were being planned for 2010 and 2011.

Submission to IMO COMSAR 14

12 It is intended that the IHB and WWNWS Chairman prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS1, based on this CL, for submission to COMSAR 14.


Election of a Vice-Chair

13 The meeting unanimously elected Captain François Lacroze of France as its Vice-Chairman.

Next Meeting

14 WWNWS2 will take place in Sydney, Australia in August 2010. Meeting information will be sent to all members of the WWNWS and made available on the IHO web site in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President