



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 57/2010
06 September 2010**

**2ND MEETING OF THE WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS SERVICE
SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The second meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee was held in Sydney, Australia, from 9 - 13 August 2010 under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 36 delegates from 15 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives of 13 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-Area Co-ordinator and 2 National Co-ordinators. Two representatives from "Electrotec" attended on Monday afternoon to give a presentation on ECDIS and the display Maritime Safety Information.

2 All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS2/WWNWS2.htm. The full report of the meeting will be available from this site once finalised. The following is a brief summary of the major issues discussed at the meeting.

WWNWS Documentation

3 Following the approval by COMSAR14, and subsequent adoption by MSC87, of the International SafetyNET Manual, WWNWS2 focused its attention on the NAVTEX Manual. A revised draft had been prepared by the Document Review WG at its 8th meeting held at IMO in the week following COMSAR 14. This draft, together with additional comments from WWNWS members were further reviewed during the meeting. The text finalised at the meeting will be circulated to WWNWS members for final comment prior to circulation to IHO Member States and the WMO for approval and subsequent submission to COMSAR 15.

4 It was agreed that the Document Review WG should hold its 9th meeting at the IMO in London in the week following COMSAR 15 i.e. 14 - 18 March 2011. The WG will prepare a draft revision of COMSAR Circ 36 "Broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters" as much of the information in this Circular is now included in the revised WWNWS documentation. The WG will also review the revised resolutions A.705(17) as amended, A.706(17) as amended and the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information to establish whether any further consequential amendments are required following the revision of the latter documents.

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters

5 Canada and Norway reported on the current status of NAVAREAs XVII, XVIII and XIX which are now broadcasting trial transmissions. The WMO also updated the meeting on the status of the corresponding Arctic METAREAs. The Arctic NAVAREAs and METAREAs will be providing the Chairman of WWNWS with updated information in October 2010 in order that a joint IHO/WMO status report can be submitted to COMSAR 15. It is anticipated that the Arctic NAVAREAs and METAREAs will declare full operational capability on 1 June 2011. A celebratory event is being

planned for COMSAR 15 to mark this significant enhancement to the WWNWS and further information will be circulated to Member States in due course.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

6 The Sub-Committee received MSI self assessments from all twenty one NAVAREAs. Reports were also received from the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel, the IMO SafetyNET Panel, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and Inmarsat Global Ltd, all of whom attended the meeting.

7 The IR of Iran, although unable to attend, informed the meeting that it still wished to pursue a Caspian Sea Sub-Area and remained willing to act as the Sub-Area Co-ordinator. The IR of Iran plans to raise the issue at a meeting of the Caspian Sea Regional States and report the outcome to IMO and IHO.

8 A report was received with respect to the COMSAR 14 discussion on the *"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 for the WWNWS Sub-Committee and the topic has been included in the agenda for WWNWS3. Based on the outcome of COMSAR 15 in 2011 when the *"Scoping Exercise"* is due to complete the WWNWS3 meeting will consider the development of the WWNWS element of the GMDSS and prepare a submission to IMO for any further substantive consideration of the topic by COMSAR.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

9 The meeting received reports on three additional MSI training courses which had been completed since the last meeting: one for the EAtHC in Accra, Ghana in September 2009; one for the NIOHC and RSAHC in Oman in October 2009 and one for the SAIHC in Namibia in April 2010. The next course for the SW Pacific Hydrographic Commission was delivered in Sydney, Australia in the week following WWNWS2. Further courses for the MACHC and SWAtHC are planned for 2011.

WWNWS2 report to IMO COMSAR 15

10 It is intended that the IHB and WWNWS Chairman prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS2, based on this CL, for submission to COMSAR 15.

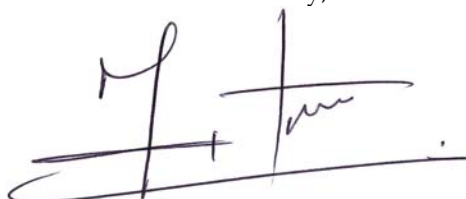
Retirement of the Vice-Chair

11 The meeting noted that its Vice-Chairman, Captain François Lacroze of France, was due to retire in March 2011 and thanked him for his significant contribution to improving the preparation and distribution of MSI over many years. The meeting agreed that his successor at the French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office (SHOM), Captain Alain Rouault, should assume the role of Vice Chairman, on a temporary basis from March 2011, pending an election at the next meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee.

Next Meeting

12 WWNWS3 will take place at the IHB in Monaco and is provisionally scheduled for 13 - 16 September 2011. 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