



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 61/2011
30 September 2011**

**3RD MEETING OF THE WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS SERVICE
SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The third meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee was held at the IHB in Monaco, from 13 – 16 September 2011 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 27 delegates from 17 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives of 12 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-Area Co-ordinator and 4 National Co-ordinators.

2 All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS3/WWNWS3.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 COMSAR15, and subsequent adoption by MSC89, of the NAVTEX Manual, WWNWS3 focused its attention on a holistic review of all the WWNWS documentation to ensure a 100% consistency of guidance and terminology used across all documents. Further work on this will be undertaken at the 10th meeting of the Document Review WG which will be held at IMO Headquarters in London in the week following COMSAR16. The work will then be finalised at WWNWS4 prior to submission to Member States, the WMO and IMO. All draft documents will be available from the WWNWS page of the IHO web site and Member States are invited to submit any comments to the Chairman and IHB.

Expansion of the WWNWS to cover Arctic Waters

4 Reports were received from all the new Arctic NAVAREAs confirming that they had satisfactorily entered Full Operational Capability (FOC) on 1 June 2011 as planned.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

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

6 WWNWS3 received a document from NAVAREA I suggesting some amendments to the format and content of Annex 8 of IMO's GMDSS Master Plan. The amendments were supported by the meeting and it was agreed that a proposal to amend Annex 8 should be submitted to COMSAR16.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

7 The meeting received a report on the two MSI training courses in Australia and Brazil which had been completed since the last meeting. A further course for the SWPHC is expected to be held in 2012. The meeting recorded its thanks to the UK and USA for their extensive support for these training courses.

8 Several NAVAREAs expressed concern that following receipt of MSI training some students did not spend very long in a relevant post before moving on and that in several cases communications were soon broken. WWNWS3 expressed the view that it might be appropriate to require a guaranteed period in a relevant post before being accepted on to course. It was agreed that the IHB should raise this matter with the IMO and also at the Inter-Organization CB Training Meeting which was due to be held in October.

Appointment of the Vice-Chair

9 The meeting unanimously elected Captain (R) Alain Rouault of the French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office (SHOM), as Vice Chair.

Centennial Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic

10 The Chairman noted that the 15 April 2012 would mark one hundred years since the sinking of the Titanic, a tragic event which was instrumental to the formation of the GMDSS as we know it today. The meeting supported a proposal from the Chairman that an appropriate message should be drafted and that it should be broadcast via SafetyNET and NAVTEX on 15 April 2012. Delegates were invited to submit draft messages which would be reviewed and finalised at the Document Review meeting in March 2012.

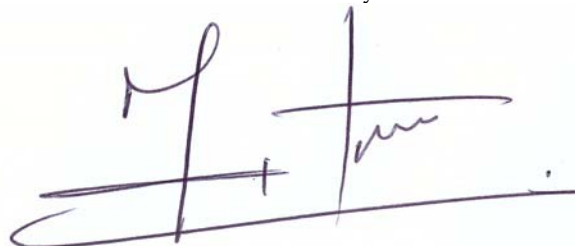
WWNWS3 report to IMO COMSAR 16

11 It is intended that the IHB and WWNWS Chairman prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS3, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to COMSAR 16.

Next Meeting

12 WWNWS4 will take place in Tokyo, Japan from 24 - 28 September 2012. 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,

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

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President