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CIRCULAR LETTER 103/2012
03 December 2012

REPORT ON THE 91st SESSION OF THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

- References:
- A. IHB CL 36/2012 dated 27 March 2012 - *Outcome of the 16th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Communications and Search and Rescue*
 - B. IHB CL 70/2012 dated 12 July 2012 - *58th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 91st session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 91) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London from 26 – 30 November. The President Robert WARD and Assistant Director David WYATT represented the IHO.
2. The following paragraphs cover matters of particular interest to the IHO.
3. The MSC endorsed the revised ECDIS Training syllabus that was completed at the 43rd session of the MSC Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW 43) earlier in the year.
4. The MSC also addressed other matters related to hydrography and nautical charting including those resulting from the 58th session of its Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 58). The main items included adopting a large number of new routing measures, traffic separation schemes and mandatory ship reporting systems. The MSC noted the progress which had been made in the development of an e-Navigation strategy implementation plan and in the development of the revised draft text of the policy and development of symbols for AIS Aids to Navigation. The MSC also re-established correspondence groups to progress both of these issues.
5. After extended discussion, the MSC endorsed SN.1/Circ.312 on operating anomalies within ECDIS, and noted the outcome of a meeting held between the IMO secretariat and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of ECDIS and a subsequent workshop organised and chaired by the IHO secretariat to continue to address operating anomalies identified within ECDIS. The Committee urged ship owners, managers and ships to use the information provided on the IHO website and on the websites of individual ECDIS manufacturers to ensure their ECDIS systems were updated to meet the latest applicable standards. The MSC noted the information provided by Japan on the action taken by Japanese manufacturers of ECDIS to address operating anomalies identified within their older equipment.
6. After further discussion the MSC agreed to a proposal from the United Kingdom to include ECDIS matters on the agenda of future sessions of NAV and, taking into consideration the need to address the issue of ECDIS anomalies as early as possible, to include it in the agenda for the next session of NAV in 2013.

7. The MSC also considered a number of matters arising from the 16th session of its Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR 16). The MSC endorsed the action taken by COMSAR to invite the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), assisted by the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM), to develop a data interface definition for an Inmarsat C SafetyNET terminal, similar to the existing definition for NAVTEX. This interface definition can then be used by manufacturers of Inmarsat C terminals and navigation display systems, such as ECDIS.

8. The MSC 91 completed its work with a lengthy discussion on the proposed reorganization of the IMO committee structure.

9. The MSC unanimously re-elected Captain Christian BREINHOLT of Denmark as Chair and Captain M. SEGAR of Singapore as Vice-Chair for 2013.

10. The full report of MSC 91 (MSC 91/22) will be posted on the IHO web site as soon as it is released by the IMO. The 92nd session of the MSC is currently scheduled to be held at IMO Headquarters in London from 12 – 21 June 2013.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
President