



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 89/2012
10 October 2012**

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL
WARNINGS SERVICE
(WWNWS)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The fourth meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee (WWNWS4) was held at the offices of the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), Japan Coast Guard, in Tokyo, from 24 to 28 September 2012 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter DOHERTY (USA). The meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 18 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives of 12 NAVAREA Coordinators, 1 Sub-Area Coordinator and 5 National Coordinators.

2 All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS4/WWNWS4.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 16th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), and the subsequent work at the 10th Document Review Working Group meeting on the IMO Assembly Technical Resolutions A.705(17) and A.706(17), WWNWS4 continued its focus on the holistic review of all the related documentation to ensure consistency in guidance and terminology used across all documents, including the example standard message texts for the various Warning Message categories. Further work on this will be undertaken at the 11th meeting of the Document Review WG which will be held at IMO Headquarters in London at the end of January. The work will then be finalised at the next meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee prior to submission to Member States, the WMO and the 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.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

4 The Sub-Committee received Maritime Safety Information (MSI) self assessment reports from 19 NAVAREAs, including a presentation from NAVAREA XI on development work on 'Navigational Warning Maps on the Web'. The Chair agreed to assist NAVAREA Coordinators, through the IHB, in gaining the support of local National Coordinators to ensure all SOLAS MSI responsibilities were being met. Reports were also received from the Chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Panel, the IMO SafetyNET Panel and the WMO, all of which were represented at the meeting. Inmarsat Global Ltd provided a report, which included a comprehensive brief on Inmarsat C and Fleet Broadband services; this included suggested future message code categories, which will be of significance in the e-Navigation environment of the future.

5 WWNWS4 received a document from NAVAREA I proposing some amendments to the format and content of Annexes 7 and 8 of IMO's GMDSS Master Plan. It was agreed these proposals required further work and therefore needed to be distributed to all NAVAREA Coordinators with the objective of continuing the review at the WWNWS Document Review WG meeting immediately after COMSAR 17.

6 It was agreed, to ensure consistency amongst all NAVAREAs, that the practice of issuing a weekly In-force Bulletin, as detailed in IMO Resolution A.706(17), as amended, should be undertaken by all NAVAREA Coordinators. The format should follow the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI and IHO S-53. An example of the standard message text would be developed at the next Document Review WG meeting.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

7 The meeting noted that three courses (for EAHC, MACHC and SAIHC) were in the Capacity Building programme for 2013 and a further three courses were scheduled for 2014. It was considered that this would challenge the available training resources. The meeting recorded its thanks to the UK and USA for their extensive support for these training courses and the work undertaken in the continuing requirement to review the training material to ensure consistency with the amended supporting manuals and documentation. The meeting also noted the draft version of the on-line training course had been delivered to the IHB and it was decided to review this during the Document Review WG meeting in London following COMSAR 17.

Appointment of the Vice-Chair

8 The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr Peter DOHERTY of the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency representing USA to continue as Chair and Captain (R) Alain ROUAULT of the French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office (SHOM) representing France, to continue as Vice Chair.

WWNWS4 report to IMO COMSAR 17

9 It is intended that the IHB and the Chair of WWNWS prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS4, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to COMSAR 17.

Next Meeting

10 WWNWS5 will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 24 - 27 September 2013. Meeting information will be sent to all members of the WWNWS and made available on the IHO web site in due course. All National MSI Coordinators are encouraged to attend WWNWS meetings to broaden their experience and interact with the Regional NAVAREA Coordinators.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



M. Iptes
Director