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**REPORT ON THE 92nd SESSION OF THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
AND ON THE IMO SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF SHIP SAFETY**

- References:
- A. IHB CL 12/2013 dated 8 February 2013 - *Outcome of the 17th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Communications and Search and Rescue*
 - B. IHB CL 28/2013 dated 2 April 2013 - *Progress report on IHO contribution to the Development of a Mandatory Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 92nd session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 92) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London from 12 – 21 June. The President Robert WARD and Assistant Director David WYATT represented the IHO.
2. The MSC session was preceded on 10 and 11 June by an IMO Symposium on the Future of Ship Safety. The Symposium was attended by approximately 500 people, including those who participated via a web conferencing facility, which allowed the presentations to be viewed remotely and for questions to be directed to panel members via e-mail and Twitter. Assistant Director Wyatt represented the IHO.
3. The following paragraphs cover matters of particular interest to the IHO.
4. The Symposium was divided into six sessions; the initial sessions highlighted the current state of ship safety focusing on the recent trends in ship design, the needs of society and global trade, and the economic, environmental and consumer forces impacting on maritime safety. The final sessions looked at methods of achieving better safety through data collection and analysis methodologies for risk assessment, ways of encouraging a safety culture beyond mere compliance, and whether the current international regulatory framework can respond to the future challenges identified. The Symposium agreed a Statement recommending, among others, that MSC considers undertaking a long-term comprehensive review of that regulatory framework.
5. The MSC approved the proposed draft amendments to the questionnaire on shore-based facilities for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), IMO Resolutions A.705(17) on the Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information and A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, all of which had been endorsed by the 17th session of its Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR). These will be disseminated by the IMO Secretariat as MSC.1/Circ.1382/Rev.2, MSC.1/Circ.1287/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1288/Rev.1 respectively.

6. The MSC also addressed other matters related to hydrography and nautical charting including those resulting from the 57th session of its Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE 57) in relation to the Development of a mandatory Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (the Polar Code). The IHO made an intervention highlighting the inadequate state of hydrographic surveying and charting in the polar regions and requested the MSC recognise it is the responsibility of the IMO to encourage all coastal States of the Organization to meet their obligations for providing appropriate hydrographic and nautical charting services in accordance with Regulation 9 of SOLAS Chapter V. The IHO received strong support, particularly from Australia, Germany, which also highlighted the potential use of Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) as a method of obtaining data for use in charts in remote areas, and from the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), which drew attention to the limited amount of hydrographic data that is available in other remote areas, not only in the polar regions. The MSC noted all the comments and instructed that they should be forwarded for consideration at the 59th session of its Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 59) along with associated issues from DE 57. The MSC also approved an intersessional meeting of its Working Group on the Polar Code to take place between 30 September and 4 October, four weeks after NAV 59.

7. The United States introduced an information paper on the Iridium mobile satellite system and requested the MSC to allow the USA to proceed with the administrative processes required to enable recognition of Iridium as a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) provider. It is anticipated that this topic will be discussed by the IHO Sub-Committee on the Worldwide Navigation Warning System (WWNWS) at its 5th meeting, which is planned to take place in Monaco from 1 to 4 October 2013.

8. MSC 92 discussed the proposed reorganization of the IMO committee structure and endorsed the proposed new sub-committee configuration from 2014. This will be considered for approval by the next sessions of the IMO Council and Assembly. The restructured subsidiary IMO bodies reporting to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection (MEPC) will have the following titles:

- i. The Sub-Committees on Ship Design and Equipment, Fire Protection and Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessel Safety will merge to become the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) and the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC).
- ii. The Sub-Committees on Safety of Navigation and Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue will merge to become the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (NCSR).
- iii. The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases will be renamed the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR).
- iv. The Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers will be renamed the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC).
- v. The Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation will be renamed the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III).
- vi. The Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping will be renamed the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW).

9. Due to the close proximity of the Symposium on the Future of Ship Safety to MSC 92, the MSC decided to only note the outcome of the Symposium at this session and consider, at a future session, the recommendations contained in the Statement of the Symposium.

10. The MSC unanimously re-elected Mr. Christian BREINHOLT of Denmark as Chair and Captain Muhammad SEGAR of Singapore as Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2014.

11. The full report of MSC 92 (MSC 92/26) will be available on the IMODOCS website when issued. The 93rd session of the MSC is currently scheduled to be held at IMO Headquarters in London from 14 to 23 May 2014.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely

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

Robert WARD
President