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**CIRCULAR LETTER 54/2013**  
**24 September 2013**

**REPORT ON THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

References: A. IHO CL 33/2013 dated 29 May - *Preparation of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation*  
B. IHO CL 40/2013 dated 25 June - *Report on the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee and of the IMO Symposium on the Future of Ship Safety*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 59) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from 2 to 6 September 2013. The IHO was represented by Director Gilles Bessero and Assistant Directors Anthony Pharaoh and David Wyatt. Heads and representatives from thirteen Hydrographic Offices (Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Poland, UK, USA, and Venezuela) also attended the meeting as part of national delegations.

2. The full report of NAV 59 (NAV 59/20) will be available on the IMODOCS website when issued.

3. This was the final session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) before it is merged with the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) into the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR) (see Reference B).

4. The agenda for NAV 59 included the following items of interest to IHO Member States:

Agenda Item 3: "Routeing of ships, ship reporting and related matters";

Agenda Item 6: "Development of an e-navigation strategy implementation plan";

Agenda Item 7: "Development of policy and new symbols for AIS aids to navigation";

Agenda Item 11: "Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO circulars";

Agenda Item 12: "Consideration of ECDIS matters related to the implementation of the carriage requirements in SOLAS Regulations V/19.2.10 and V/19.2.11";

Agenda Item 13: "Development of explanatory footnotes to SOLAS Regulations V/15, V/18, V/19 and V/27"; and

Agenda Item 19: "Any Other Business" – Development of a mandatory Code for ships operating in Polar waters.

A summary of the relevant discussions is as follows:

### Agenda Item 3 - Routeing of ships, ship reporting and related matters

5. The Sub-Committee approved the establishment of two new traffic separation schemes off the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Panama, one new routeing measure covering the Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef and amendments to the existing routeing measures covering Ushant off the northwest coast of France. These provisions will now be passed to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for adoption at its 93<sup>rd</sup> session in May 2014. Implementation will be not less than six months after adoption by the MSC.

6. Discussions in the margins of the ships' routeing working group showed that some coastal States that are not Member States of the IHO may be taking the existence of nautical charts of their waters for granted when they assume that the existence of published charts implies that there are adequate underpinning surveys. The IHB intends to review the existing IMO guidance on the submission of routeing measures and consider whether additional guidelines would be appropriate.

### Agenda Item 6 - Development of an e-navigation Strategy Implementation Plan

7. The Sub-Committee continued its work on the development of an implementation plan for e-navigation focussing attention on the report of the intersessional Correspondence Group and numerous documents submitted by Member States and observers. The Sub-Committee noted the progress on the development of the detailed onboard e-navigation architecture, including the connection with the development and use of IHO S-100, and invited IHO, IALA and other relevant organizations to continue contributing to the further development of the architecture. The Sub-Committee re-established the Correspondence Group on e-navigation and instructed it to finalize the draft strategy implementation plan. The Correspondence Group was requested to provide a consolidated final report to the first session of the NCSR in July 2014.

8. The final Terms of Reference of the Correspondence Group, taking into account the comments of the Sub-Committee, will be attached to the report of the session.

9. The IHO contribution to the further work of the e-navigation Correspondence Group and the impact of e-navigation development on the work of the IHO will be considered at the next meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee in November.

### Agenda Item 7 - Development of policy and new symbols for AIS aids to navigation.

10. The Sub-Committee considered the report of the intersessional Correspondence Group on AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN), which contained the first draft of the IMO policy for AIS AtoN, including portrayal of the information. A drafting group was established to finalize the draft policy.

11. The Sub-Committee approved the consolidated final draft policy submitted by the drafting group, which acknowledged the need for close coordination with charting authorities. The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft MSC circular on the policy on the use of AIS Aids to Navigation. The Sub-Committee also endorsed the draft SN Circular on amended guidelines for the presentation of navigational-related symbols, terms and abbreviations.

### Agenda Item 11 - Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO circulars

12. The Sub-Committee considered a proposal, submitted by Australia, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom and co-sponsored by the IHO, to consolidate ECDIS-related IMO circulars related to the implementation of the carriage requirements in SOLAS Regulations. The proposal included a draft "Guidance for good practice" that was developed on the assumption that existing circulars would be retained, thereby avoiding the need to revise all cross-references. After considerable discussion, NAV requested Member Governments to review the draft, in order to meet an objective of placing all guidance related to ECDIS issues in a single new circular, and revoking existing circulars. Member States were requested to submit new proposals to NCSR 1.

Agenda Item 12 - Consideration of ECDIS matters related to the implementation of the carriage requirements in SOLAS Regulations V/19.2.10 and V/19.2.11

13. The Sub-Committee noted the information on ECDIS operation provided in the documents submitted by Denmark and BIMCO and by the IHO, together with the oral information provided by China. No new issues related to ECDIS operation anomalies were raised and the Sub-Committee noted the actions taken by the IHO.

Agenda Item 13 - Development of explanatory footnotes to SOLAS Regulations V/15, V/18, V/19 and V/27

14. The Sub-Committee considered a draft explanatory footnote to SOLAS Regulation V/27, submitted by Australia and the United Kingdom and co-sponsored by the IHO. SOLAS V/27 requires that nautical charts and nautical publications be “adequate” and “up to date”. The purpose of the footnote was to clarify “adequate” and “up to date” when ECDIS is used to meet the chart carriage requirements. The Sub-Committee could not agree on whether the proposed footnote was appropriate, or if there was a need to amend SOLAS Regulation V/18.4 concerning exemptions from compliance with current performance standards, or whether to revise SN.1/Circ.266 on the maintenance of ECDIS software. Member States were invited to reconsider the issue with the objective of submitting new proposals to NCSR 1.

Agenda Item 19 - Any other business - development of a mandatory Code for ships operating in Polar waters

15. The Sub-Committee reviewed the information provided by the IHO to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee for Ship Design and Equipment (DE 57) regarding the state of charting and provision of hydrographic data in the Polar Regions. The Sub-Committee took note of the comments from the 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the MSC (Reference B) and acknowledged the need for coastal and Antarctic Treaty States to fulfil their SOLAS obligations by placing a priority on conducting primary systematic hydrographic surveys. The Sub-Committee endorsed the texts submitted by the IHO concerning the status of charting for inclusion in the Polar Code *Preamble* and Part B *Additional Guidance* by the intersessional working group meeting in October.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014

16. Due to the reorganization of IMO and the merger of NAV and COMSAR, it was decided not to hold an election of officers for 2014. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair will be the first item on the agenda of NCSR 1.

Dates for NCSR 1

17. NCSR 1 is currently scheduled to be held at IMO Headquarters in London from 30 June to 4 July 2014.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO  
Director