



IHB File N° S3/3084

CIRCULAR LETTER 09/2014
21 January 2014

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

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The fifth meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee (WWNWS-5) was held at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco, from 1 to 4 October 2013 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA). The meeting was attended by 42 delegates from 22 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), Inmarsat Global Ltd, Iridium Satellite LLC. The delegates included representatives of 19 NAVAREA Coordinators, one Sub-Area Coordinator and five National Coordinators.

2. All meeting documents are available on the IHO web site at: http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS5/WWNWS5.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. The Sub-Committee was advised that all relevant documents related to Maritime Safety Information (MSI) have now been adopted by IMO and that the current intention is to review and ensure that there is 100% consistency between them and not to propose any significant new matters at present. It was noted that the extensive week-long review sessions that have followed IMO COMSAR over the past several years have resulted in the quality documents which are now available.

4. All draft documents under development by the Sub-Committee will be available on the WWNWS page of the IHO web site and Member States are invited to submit any comments to the Chairman and IHB. Any suggested changes or amendments and further work will be undertaken at the 12th meeting of the Document Review WG, which will be held the week after the first session of the IMO Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue Sub-Committee (NCSR) at IMO Headquarters in London in mid-July. The work will then be finalised at the next meeting of the WWNWS prior to submission to Member States, the WMO and the IMO.

5. Director Gilles Bessero presented an overview of the S-100 geospatial data framework model underpinning the next-generation Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC). The Sub-Committee agreed to establish a working group to develop a Maritime Safety Information product specification based on S-100.

GMDSS / MSI Briefing

6. The Sub-Committee received MSI self-assessment reports from all 21 NAVAREAs. The Chair agreed to assist NAVAREA Coordinators, through the IHB, to gain the support of National Coordinators in ensuring that all SOLAS MSI responsibilities were being met. Reports were 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 Fleet Broadband and Maritime Safety Data Service (MSDS) services.

7. The Sub-Committee received a briefing on the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Master Plan Annexes 7 and 8. It was noted that the responsibility for updates falls to the IMO International SafetyNET Panel. Changes to the presentation format of the Annexes were highlighted. It was requested that NAVAREA Coordinators send all proposed changes to Annex 8 to the Chairman of the International SafetyNET Panel for review, prior to formally submitting them to the IMO. Upon approval, the Chairman would provide instructions on how to submit changes to the IMO. NAVAREA Coordinators were encouraged to develop more active relationships between themselves and national NAVTEX Coordinators, not only for the benefit of maintaining Annex 7, but also for the benefit of NAVTEX users generally.

8. The results of the 59th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) were reported, in particular the development of the policy and new symbols for Automatic Identification System (AIS) aids to navigation which was an outcome of the work of NAV AIS Aids to Navigation Correspondence Group. The Sub-Committee was advised on the potential use of AIS to broadcast MSI, as discussed by the US Coast Guard at the 2013 annual meeting of the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM). The WNWNS Sub-Committee was advised to monitor the broadcast of MSI via AIS, so that WNWNS services were not compromised.

9. Coordination of NAVTEX coverage in the Mediterranean Sea was discussed. The Chairman of the IMO International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel urged States in the Mediterranean Sea to work together to establish working level agreements on the exchange and promulgation of MSI using NAVTEX Services Areas.

10. The Deputy Director General of IMSO presented an overview of INMARSAT's contingency planning exercises. The Sub-Committee requested that an exercise between NAVAREA IV/XII and NAVAREA XVII/XVIII be undertaken to test the capability to disseminate warnings seamlessly on behalf of each other. The results are to be reported at WNWNS-6. The Sub-Committee also received a comprehensive brief on the present state and future development of the Iridium Satellite system.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

11. The meeting noted the first of two MSI courses had been held on 20-22 May in Trinidad, in support of the MESO American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC). Eighteen students attended from 13 different countries. The second MSI course was conducted in South Africa, on 16-18 December, in support of the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC). Twelve students attended from 10 different countries. In 2014 there is currently only one course scheduled. It will be conducted for the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) and will be conducted in New Zealand following WNWNS-6 in August 2014. The meeting recorded its thanks to the UK, France 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.

WWNWS-5 Report to IMO NCSR 1

12. It is intended that the IHB and the Chair of WNWNS Sub-Committee will prepare a brief report on the outcome of WNWNS-5, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to NCSR 1.

Next Meeting

13. WNWNS-6 will be held in Wellington, New Zealand from 18 to 22 August 2014. This meeting is planned to take place simultaneously with the WMO Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop/METAREA Coordinators meeting, over the same dates and collocated in the same venue. This is the first time that meetings will be held concurrently and stands to be of significant benefit for both organizations. A joint agenda will be prepared to make the most of the

time available. 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 the meetings of WWNWS to broaden their experience and interact with the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

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

Mustafa Iptes
Director