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10 February 2014

PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION
JOINT IMO/IHO/WMO MANUAL ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION
Publication S-53, New Edition July 2014

Reference:

- A. IHO CL 12/2013 dated 8 February - *Report on the 17th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR 17)*
- B. IHO CL 09/2014 dated 21 January - Fifth meeting of the Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As reported at Reference A, the IHO Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS-SC) was reviewing the text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSI). Further to the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held in October 2013 at the IHB in Monaco (Reference B), work on this review has now been completed. A representative from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) participated fully in the review. WWNWS-SC also received advice and guidance from the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IHO publishes the Joint MSI Manual as IHO Publication S-53 - *Joint IHO/IMO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information*.

2. The review took into account the adoption by the IMO of changes to IMO Resolutions A.705(17) as amended - *Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information*, and A.706(17) as amended - *IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Guidance Document*. These changes are due to come into force on 1 January 2015.

3. In addition to the changes described above, the WWNWS-SC has taken the opportunity to add, revise and improve the texts of a number of example warning messages.

4. Now that the WWNWS-SC has completed its review, the draft revised text for the Joint MSI Manual and S-53 has been moved from the Document Review section of the WWNWS-SC page and is available from the IHO web site http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/IHO_Download.htm#JOINTMANUALMSI under the section entitled Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States. Both a "redline version", showing the changes, and a "clean version" are provided. Any Member State requiring a hard copy of the documents should contact the IHB. However, the IHB proposes that a revised version of S-53 should not be published until after the Joint MSI Manual has received the approval of IMO. The text of S-53 can then include any further input or revisions made to the Joint MSI Manual by IMO as part of its approval process.

5. The IHB intends to forward the revised draft Joint MSI Manual to the Secretariat of the WMO seeking its agreement for a joint submission to the first session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR-1) to be held in July 2014. The submission must be submitted to IMO by 28 March 2014 in order to be considered by NCSR-1. The Directing Committee therefore requests that Member States provide any comments on the draft revised Joint MSI Manual, if any, **no later than 10 March 2014**, copied to the secretary of the WWNWS Document Review WG, Mr William Van-Den-Berg (William.Van-Den-Bergh@UKHO.gov.uk).

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES

Director