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**CIRCULAR LETTER 66/2014**  
**17 September 2014**

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

Reference: IHO CL 09/2014 dated 21 January - *Fifth Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service (WWNWS)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The sixth meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee (WWNWS 6) was held at the Amora Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand, from 18 to 22 August 2014 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA). The meeting was attended by 27 delegates from 14 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the IMO NAVTEX Panel, the IMO SafetyNET Panel, Inmarsat and Iridium. The delegates included representatives of 11 NAVAREA Coordinators, one Sub-area Coordinator and four National Coordinators. The WMO held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop concurrently.

**Joint Session of NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators**

2. The WWNWS-SC and the WMO Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop met in joint session for one and a half days during the meeting period. This allowed NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators to discuss topics of mutual interest and to receive briefings and background presentations on the IHO, WMO and IMO structures.

3. The current state of the documentation related to Maritime Safety Information (MSI) was discussed at the joint meeting. The next publications to be reviewed were highlighted. These included the IMO NAVTEX Manual and IMO Resolution A.1051(27) on the IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service. The joint session received progress reports on the development of the S-124 - Navigational warnings, S-411 - Sea ice and S-412 - Met-ocean forecasts Product Specifications, all of which are relevant to worldwide navigational warning services.

4. The IMO Secretariat provided background presentations on the projects related to the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and e-Navigation, noting that engagement and input from both the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators were vital to the eventual successful conclusions of both projects. The IMO Secretariat encouraged closer cooperation and interaction between the IMO, IHO and WMO and the attendance of more METAREA Coordinators at the meetings of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR) and the WWNWS-SC Document Review Working Group (DRWG), that normally takes place during the week following NCSR.

**Summary of Discussions at WWNWS 6**

5. All meeting documents for WWNWS 6 are available from the IHO web site at: [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS6/WWNWS6.htm](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS6/WWNWS6.htm). The full report of the meeting will be available from this page once finalised. The following is a brief summary of the major issues discussed at the meeting.

## WWNWS Documentation

6. The work of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DRWG was reviewed. In particular, the proposed editorial amendments to the IMO SafetyNET Manual and sections of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual that had been requested for review by the IMO Secretariat were highlighted and approved by the Sub-Committee. It was reported that amendments to the IAMSAR Manual have been submitted to the IMO Secretariat for discussion at a number of joint meetings prior to submission to the second session of NCSR (NCSR 2), to be held in March 2015, for approval. The SafetyNET Manual will be circulated to IHO Member States and the WMO for comment and approval prior to submission to NCSR 2.

7. It was agreed that the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Document Review WG (DRWG 13) will undertake a review of the IMO NAVTEX Manual and prepare proposed amendments for consideration at WWNWS 7 and subsequent submission to NCSR 3 in 2016. In addition work will commence on IMO Resolution A.1051(27), in preparation for submission to NCSR 4 in 2017.

8. All draft documents under development by the Sub-Committee are available via the WWNWS page of the IHO web site. Member States are encouraged to review the documents and submit comments to the Chairman and the IHB. Any suggested changes or amendments and further work will be undertaken at the DRWG 13, which will be held the week after the second session of the IMO NCSR at IMO Headquarters in London in mid-March 2015. The drafting work will be finalised at the next meeting of the WWNWS then submitted to Member States, the WMO and the IMO for approval.

## GMDSS / MSI Briefing

9. 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.

10. The IMO Secretariat provided a brief on the GMDSS modernization and the GMDSS Master Plan. A revised process for updating Annexes 7 and 8 of the Master Plan was explained. Noting that the responsibility for inserting new data would be passed directly to the Member States, it was confirmed that a validation check would be undertaken by the IMO Secretariat. The representative of the IMO Secretariat urged direct engagement by all Area Coordinators with the GMDSS modernization Correspondence Group (CG). The CG Coordinator's contact details are:

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11. The contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan were reviewed. As a result, METAREA Coordinators are requested to liaise with their respective NAVAREA Coordinators to ensure the information being submitted to the IMO is correct.

12. The year-long WWNWS customer survey questionnaire results were reviewed and various issues identified for individual NAVAREAs to address. Inmarsat gave a general brief on issues identified for the SafetyNET service relevant to both NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators. It was noted that many of the comments and problems submitted by users were identified as system and equipment related and reflected a lack of understanding on the part of the users. The IMO Secretariat was asked to consider if this situation could be brought to the attention of the appropriate IMO bodies to explore ways to improve GMDSS training.

## MSI Capacity Building Training Course

13. The meeting received updated information on the delivery of MSI training courses and the need for the NAVAREA Coordinators to work closely with the Regional Capacity Building (CB) Coordinators to help developing nations to reach the CB Phase 1 level (collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to maintain existing charts and publications up to date) of the IHO CB

Strategy. The meeting was informed that the next session of MSI training was to be conducted in New Zealand for participants from the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission from 25 to 27 August and in Muscat from 15 to 17 December for participants from the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission and the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission. It was also noted that a further two courses have been funded for the East Asia Hydrographic Commission and Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission in 2014 and one for the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission in 2015.

14. The meeting recorded its thanks to France, UK, and USA for their extensive support in conducting the training courses and the work undertaken in the continuing requirement to review the training material to ensure consistency with the amended supporting documentation.

#### **WWNWS 6 report to IMO NCSR 2**

15. The IHB and the Chair of the WWNWS-SC will prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS 6, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to NCSR 2.

#### **Next Meeting**

16. The seventh meeting of the WWNWS-SC (WWNWS 7) will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 24 to 28 August 2015. All NAVAREA Coordinators and National MSI Coordinators are encouraged to attend the meetings of the WWNWS-SC to broaden their experience and interact with each other.

#### **Conclusion**

17. The interaction between the IHO and WMO that occurred through the collocation of meetings was very beneficial and improved the understanding of issues common to the operation of NAVAREAs and METAREAs. It was agreed that a further collocated meeting should be considered with a target year of 2017. In the meantime, regular discussions between NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators of the same Area are encouraged to minimize the duplication of effort and maximize the transfer of relevant information.

18. Member States with responsibilities for the NAVAREA system should:

- Encourage regular attendance at WWNWS-SC meetings;
- Seek or maintain close engagement with National MSI Coordinators within their NAVAREA;
- Establish and maintain liaison with their respective METAREA Coordinator;
- In cooperation with their respective Regional Capacity Building Coordinator, seek to identify coastal States within their NAVAREA in need of support and MSI training;
- Encourage engagement with the GMDSS Modernization CG and, through national delegations to the IMO, raise awareness of progress and impact of e-Navigation on the provision of MSI; and
- Monitor progress of the establishment of contingency plans with adjacent NAVAREAs and encourage regular exercising of plans already established.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES  
Director