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CIRCULAR LETTER 78/2015
12 November 2015

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

References:

- A. IHO CL 66/2014 dated 17 September – *Outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service (WWNWS-SC)*.
- B. IHO CL 54/2015 dated 22 July - *Revision of the Procedure for Submission of Maritime Safety Information Documentation to IMO*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The seventh meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee (WWNWS7) was held at the IHB in Monaco from 24 to 27 August 2015 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA). The meeting was attended by 42 delegates from 18 IHO Member States, the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), the Secretariat of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the Chairs of IMO NAVTEX and SafetyNET Coordinating Panels, the *Comité International Radio-Maritime* (CIRM), Inmarsat, Iridium, Furuno Finland Oy and the IHB. The delegates included representatives of 16 NAVAREA Coordinators, one Sub-area Coordinator and four National Coordinators.

Summary of Discussions at WWNWS7

2. All meeting documents and the meeting report for WWNWS7 are available from the WWNWS section of the IHO web site (www.iho.int > Committees & WG > IRCC > WWNWS > WWNWS7). The following is a brief summary of the major issues considered at the meeting.

WWNWS Documentation

3. The work of the 13th meeting of the Document Review Working Group (DRWG) was reviewed. In particular, the proposed editorial amendments to the IMO SafetyNET and NAVTEX Manuals were highlighted and approved by the Sub-Committee. In accordance with the decision of the seventh meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC7) and, in the absence of any adverse comment on the procedure outlined in Reference B, the final draft versions of the SafetyNET and NAVTEX Manuals will be submitted to the 3rd session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR 3) for comment and endorsement prior to the consideration and anticipated approval of Member States at the 96th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 96).

4. It was agreed that the 14th meeting of the Document Review WG (DRWG14) will undertake a review of the IMO Resolutions A.664(16) (*Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call Equipment*), MSC.305(87) (*Guideline on Operational Procedures for the Broadcast of Maritime Safety Information concerning Acts of Piracy and Piracy Countermeasure operations*) and MSC.306(87) (*Revised Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call (EGC) equipment*) and prepare proposed amendments for consideration at WWNWS8 in 2016 and subsequent submission to

NCSR4 in 2017. Additionally it was agreed to include the Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Capacity Building (CB) course training material in the review cycle to ensure it reflected the recent amendments to the Joint MSI Manual and the proposed revisions to the SafetyNET and NAVTEX Manuals. It was agreed to finalize the work on IMO Resolution A.1051(27) (*IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service – Guidance Document*) in preparation for submission to NCSR 4 in 2017.

5. All draft documents under development by the Sub-Committee are available via the WNWNS page of the IHO web site. Member States are encouraged to review the documents and submit comments to the Chairman (Mr Peter Doherty) and the IHB (Assistant Director David Wyatt). Any proposed changes or amendments and further work will be undertaken at the DRWG14, which will be held the week after the third session of the NCSR 3 at IMO Headquarters in London in mid-March 2016. The drafting work will be finalised at WNWNS8, then submitted to the IMO for approval.

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) / MSI Briefing

6. The Sub-Committee received MSI self-assessment reports from all 21 NAVAREAs. A number of issues were highlighted, which required further investigation and input from the Chair of the WNWNS-SC, as well as the Chairs of the IMO SafetyNET and NAVTEX Coordinating Panels. 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.

7. The IMO Secretariat provided a brief on the modernization of the GMDSS and the GMDSS Master Plan, noting the next revision would be issued in mid-September after approval by the Chair of the IMO NAVTEX Coordination Panel and consultation with the Chair of the IMO SafetyNET Coordinating Panel. The representative of the IMO Secretariat noted that a GMDSS Circular was being considered announcing the inclusion of a module in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) that will allow individual Member States to update relevant information in the GMDSS Master Plan. Noting the desire for ease of updating, it was agreed that the IMO SafetyNET and NAVTEX Coordinating Panels would conduct some quality control and quality assurance to ensure no invalid information was published. It was also noted that a similar process would be required when additional service providers operate in the future; it was also confirmed that a validation check would be undertaken by the IMO Secretariat. The representative of the IMO Secretariat urged that all Area Coordinators provide relevant input to the GMDSS modernization Correspondence Group (CG). The contact details are:

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8. The contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan were reviewed. The Chair of the NAVTEX Coordinating Panel noted that there were eight amendments waiting input to Annex 8. Review by the Sub-Committee highlighted and identified a number of incorrect inputs during the meeting.

9. The WMO Secretariat provided a brief on the activities of the Organization over the past year, including outcome from its Congress. Details of the work programmes of the six regional associations and working groups and their activities, increased cooperation between NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators, the continuous emergency response capability were all highlighted, as well as the activities of the regional and global training centres. An update on the multi-hazard early warning system was provided; the IHO and IMO were invited to participate in the network to develop appropriate world-wide policy and standards.

10. The Secretariat of IMSO provided a presentation on the IMSO activities and the process for conducting the technical assessment of potential new GMDSS mobile satellite service providers as directed by the NCSR and the MSC.

11. The Secretariat of the IOC gave a presentation on the Tsunami Early Warning System and raised a number of issues for comment by the WWNWS-SC. The relationships between NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators, National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWCs), national authorities and mariners were highlighted and the process for warnings on tidal surges and storm generated waves, particularly in low lying coastal regions, was explained.

12. The Sub-Committee also received several other briefings. Inmarsat reported on progress on the Inmarsat-C EGC SafetyNET system developments. The Chair of the S-124 Correspondence Group updated the Sub-Committee on the progress in the development of the S-124 Navigation Warning S-100 based Product Specification. Denmark provided a briefing on the European Union ACCSEAS (*Accessibility for Shipping, Efficiency Advantages and Sustainability*) project, and on a new web based system for displaying MSI and other maritime data on a Maritime Message Information web site. The process for creating warnings in the system was also demonstrated. Iridium provided an update on developments of the Iridium Satellite system, as the process towards approval recognition as a mobile satellite GMDSS service provider progresses. Director Gilles Bessero gave a background brief and presentation on the impact of e-navigation on the provision of hydrographic services. The presentation covered the likely future developments in the e-navigation project, and highlighted in particular the impacts on MSI provision and the work of the NAVAREA Coordinators.

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 CB Coordinators to help developing nations to reach the Phase 1 level (collection and circulation of nautical information, required to maintain existing charts and publications up to date) of the IHO CB Strategy. As part of this cooperation, the proposed text of an MSI assessment to be included in national reports to RHC meetings was discussed. The meeting was informed that one MSI course had been conducted in Tokyo, Japan for participants from the East Asia Hydrographic Commission from 3 to 5 March and a further course was programmed to be held in Istanbul for participants from the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission from 20 to 23 October. It was also noted that a further two courses have been funded for the Meso American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission and the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission in 2016.

14. The Chair noted there were only one French and one Spanish instructor qualified and available to deliver the MSI course, which restricted the opportunities for delivering courses in these two languages. The meeting recorded its thanks to Australia, France, New Zealand, UK, and USA for their significant support in conducting the training courses and in the work undertaken in addressing the continuing requirement to review the training material to ensure consistency with the amended supporting documentation.

WWNWS7 Report to IMO NCSR 3

15. The IHB and the Chair of the WWNWS-SC will prepare a brief report on the outcome of WWNWS7, based on this Circular Letter, for submission to NCSR 3.

Next Meeting

16. The eighth meeting of the WWNWS-SC (WWNWS8) will take place in Ålesund, Norway, from 12 to 16 September 2016. 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 Directing Committee takes this opportunity to remind Member States with responsibilities for the NAVAREA system that they should:

- Encourage regular attendance at WWNWS-SC meetings;

- Seek or maintain close engagement with National MSI Coordinators within their NAVAREA;
- 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,

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

Mustafa Iptes
Director