

Outcome of COMSAR 14

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides information on the matters considered and actions taken at IMO COMSAR 14 with regards to the WWNWS

Action to be taken: 7

Related documents: None

1. COMSAR 14 was held at the IMO HQ in London from 8 – 12 March 2010.
2. Admiral Maratos (President), Steve Shipman, (PAH) and Peter Doherty (USA - Chairman of WWNWS) represented the IHO. The following NAVAREA Coordinators were represented: NAVAREA 1 (UK); NAVAREA II (France); NAVAREAs IV and XII (USA); NAVAREAs XVII and XVIII (Canada) and NAVAREA XIX (Norway).

GMDSS

- 3 COMSAR considered, amongst others, the following papers:
 - a) COMSAR 14/3/1 Report by the Chairman (Peter Doherty – USA) on the outcome of the 1st meeting of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee held at the IHB in Monaco from 18 – 21 August 2010. The report was noted.
 - b) COMSAR 14/3/2 Amended List of NAVAREA Co-ordinators. Additional amendments to the entries for NAVAREAs II and VIII were agreed and the revised IMO COMSAR Circular 51 has been issued. Appendix 1 to IHO publication S-53 has been amended and is available for download from the IHO web site.
 - c) COMSAR 14/3/4 on a review of IMO resolutions A.664(16) - Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Equipment, and A.701(17) – Carriage of Inmarsat Enhanced Group Call SafetyNET Receivers under the GMDSS. COMSAR approved a revised text of A.664(16) which was later adopted at the 87th session of the Maritime Safety Committee as resolution MSC.306(87). The text adopted by the MSC is available in document WWNWS2/4/6A and on the WWNWS page of the IHO web site. COMSAR concluded that resolution A.701(17) was now obsolete as the information was included in resolution A.706(17), as amended, and SOLAS Chapters IV and V and invited the Secretariat to take the necessary action to revoke the resolution.

d) COMSAR 14/3/5 on the draft Revised International SafetyNET Manual. COMSAR prepared a few editorial amendments to the submitted draft manual and the revised Manual was adopted by MSC87 and published as MSC.1/Circ.1364. The text as approved by COMSAR in English, French and Spanish is available from the WWNWS page of the IHO web site.

e) COMSAR 14/3/6 Report by the Chairman (Cdr. Tim Sewell - UK) of the International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel. The report was noted.

f) COMSAR 14/3/7 from the Chairman (Peter Doherty - USA) of the joint IMO/IHO/WMO Correspondence Group (CG) on Arctic MSI Services. The Sub-Committee endorsed the work and conclusions of the CG. The IHO through its WWNWS Sub-Committee was invited to monitor the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) testing and the transition to Full Operational Capability (FOC) and to provide guidance and assistance as appropriate. The IHO and WMO were invited to report on progress at COMSAR 15 in 2011.

g) COMSAR 14/3/8 Proposal by the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) for the issue of an MSC Circular on “Guideline on operational procedures for the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information concerning acts of piracy and piracy counter-measure operations”. The text of an MSC Circular was approved by COMSAR and adopted by MSC87 as resolution MSC.305(87). The text approved by COMSAR is available in English, French and Spanish from the WWNWS page of the IHO web site. The English text is included in document WWNWS2/3/3/5A

4. The MSC at its 86th session had agreed to a new work programme item for COMSAR to carry out a “Scoping exercise to establish the need for a review of the elements and procedures of the GMDSS.” Although this had not been put on the Agenda for COMSAR 14 several States submitted related documents under Agenda Item 7 “Developments in maritime radiocommunication systems and technology.” COMSAR prepared a document COMSAR14/WP.5/Add.1 reflecting currently available information on the subject. This document will be used as a basis for discussion at the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group meeting, planned for 14-16 September 2010, and for submissions to be made to COMSAR 15. This WP is available from the IHO web site under External Liaison > International Organization Documents > IMO.

E-Navigation

5. COMSAR established a WG to consider the report from the IMO NAV CG on e-Navigation. The IHO informed the WG of the adoption of S-100 – Universal Hydrographic Data Model. COMSAR agreed that the CG should consider further the issue of a common data structure for information exchange and requested the IHO to provide relevant input to the CG. The Ukraine in document COMSAR14/7 proposed the simplification of VHF DSC radiocommunications for navigators and for increasing DSC efficiency by integration of the DSC VHF radio equipment with vessel AIS-ECDIS systems. Whilst there was agreement that there were no technical constraints to implementing the proposal some delegations expressed the view that this might require a revision of the ECDIS Performance Standard although the Ukraine did not consider this to be the case. COMSAR concluded that the development of e-Navigation and the scoping exercise to establish the need for a review of the elements and procedures of the GMDSS should be harmonized and that there should also be an

identification of the user needs for GMDSS. All relevant documents are available from the e-navigation / GMDSS Review web page which can be accessed from the IMO page referred to in paragraph 4 above.

6. The full report COMSAR14/17 is available from the IMO documents page of the IHO web site. COMSAR 15 is provisionally planned to be held at the IMO HQ in London from 7 - 11 March 2011 and it is intended that the WWNWS WG on the WWNWS Documentation review will meet at IMO HQ in the week following COMSAR15.

7. The WWNWS Sub-Committee is invited to note this information.