

WMO Liaison Report

Submitted by WMO

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides a short summary report on WMO activities since the first session of IHO/WWNWS, implemented through the JCOMM/Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services.

Action to be taken: The participants are invited to:

- (a) Note and comment on the information provided as appropriate;
- (b) Provide additional recommendations and suggestions as appropriate.

Short report on ETMSS activities since WWNWS-1

1 Following the request by the WMO Executive Council, at its sixty-first session (Geneva, June 2009), an IMO/WMO World-Wide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS) guideline document was prepared, including Terms of Reference of METAREA Coordinators, to complement the existing IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Services (WWNWS, IMO Resolution A.706(17)). The document has been endorsed by JCOMM-III (Marrakech, November 2009). The WMO Executive Council will consider the WWMIWS, at its sixty-second session (Geneva, June 2010), and subsequently it will be submitted to IMO for adoption and inclusion in the regulatory publications.

2 The status of implementation of the GMDSS in the Arctic was reviewed during the JCOMM Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop (MSSE Workshop, Melbourne, Australia, May 2010). The MSSE Workshop was pleased to note the progress being made by all three Issuing Services, covering the five new Metareas, with a July 2010 date for extended testing of GMDSS broadcasts, and a target July 2011 implementation date, both likely to be met. A number of common issues across the Arctic Metareas were noted. While most of these were likely to be resolved internally to the Issuing services or through discussions with other Issuing and Preparation Services, some were agreed as requiring wider discussion within the ETMSS, such as protocols for ensuring consistency between GMDSS and national products, coordination and consistency across Metarea boundaries, and the service gap over Hudson Bay. The remaining issues will be discussed during the third session of the Expert team on maritime Safety Services (ETMSS-III), planned 4th to 8th October 2010 in St Petersburg, Russian Federation.

METAREA	GMDSS Focal Point contact	Planned schedules
XVII	Mr. Dave Wartman	0300 / 1500 UTC (POR)
XVIII	Director, Atmospheric Monitoring Environment Canada 4905 Dufferin Street Toronto (Ontario) M3H 5T4 Canada Dave.Wartman@ec.gc.ca Phone : +1 (902) 426-9132 Fax : +1 (902) 490-0720	0300 / 1500 UTC (AOR-W)
XIX	Helge Tangen Regional Director Norwegian Meteorological Institute Forecasting Center for Northern Norway P.O. Box 6314, NO-9293 Tromsø Norway Phone: +47 7762 1300 Fax: +47 7762 1301 e-mail: helge.tangen@met.no	1100 / 2300 UTC (AOR-E)
XX	National Coordinator	0600 / 1800 UTC (IOR)
XXI	Mr Valery Martyschenko Deputy Head of Department Russian Federation Service for Hydrometeorology & Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) Novovagan'kovsky st., 123995 Moscow Russian Federation Phone: +7 (499) 252 4511 (working hours) Fax: +7 (499) 252 2090 E-Mail: seadep@mcc.mecom.ru National Contact Point for GMDSS Mr Sergey Brestkin Head, Center for Sea-Ice and Meteorological Information Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (of Roshydromet) 38 Bering str. St Petersburg 199397 Russian Federation Phone: +7 (812) 352 1901 (24/7) Phone: +7 (812) 352 2256 (working hours) Fax: +7 (812) 352 2688 (24/7) E-mail : gmdss@aari.ru	0600 / 1800 UTC (POR)

3 In order to ensure the use of best practises and the improvement of value for mariners, JCOMM promotes the implementation of Quality Management Systems (QMS) within the NMS preparing MSI. Participants of the MSSE Workshop, i.e. most of the Issuing Services, were provided with a QM training by a specialist supporting the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. A process for moving forward in providing support to developing countries in

implementing QMS as they further develop their marine services will be prepared. Guidelines for implementation of QMS by Issuing Services will also be drafted.

4 During the MSSE Workshop, the provision of met-ocean MSI was reviewed. Despite the general satisfactory operations of the system, some issues were identified, such as the monitoring of broadcasts, the provision of tsunami-related MSI and the information to mariners. Those issues will be considered by the 3rd session of ETMSS, planned from 4th to 8th October in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. IHO should be represented. The draft agenda and working documents will be posted on the JCOMM web site (http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oa&task=eventCalendar&Itemid=17) closer to the event.

5 System performance metrics constituted an important part of the management of the system (including for QMS), and hence of the reporting process. The estimation of the usefulness and impacts necessarily involves a complex and multi-faceted process, through regular written questionnaires (as was now the case in JCOMM – see http://www.jcomm.info/SPA_MSS), future on-line surveys through the website, and direct feedback from ships masters, owners and agents, using the Port Meteorological Officers and other ship visitors. Part of this feedback should include basic information on who is actually using the MSI provided through the GMDSS; and if the information is not being regularly used, why not, what alternatives are used, and why. Such feedback represents essential information for both WMO and IMO in improving the value of their services to users. In this context, ETMSS is ready to work with IHO/WWNWS in developing a complete survey methodology, to provide the feedback necessary for performance assessment of the system.

Planned actions, projects or priorities for the next JCOMM intersessional period 2010-2012

6 JCOMM-III re-implemented the ETMSS (Resolution 5), but significantly modified the Terms of Reference of the Team (see Appendix I). In particular, all operational activities related to marine pollution (MPERSS) and SAR activities are now under the umbrella of ETMSS. In accordance with the ToRs, the ETMSS liaises with and gathers input from other SFSPA teams - ETSI, ET on waves and surges (ETWS) and ET on Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems (ETOFS), on all aspects of sea ice, sea state, storm surge and ocean circulation relevant to the operation and improvement of maritime safety services and maritime accident emergency support. A core membership has also been selected (see Appendix I). After JCOMM-III, the core members of the Team have proposed to identify 2 vice-chairpersons, Nick Ashton from UK (activities in liaison with MSI) and Oyvind Breivik from Norway (activities in liaison with MPERSS and SAR).

7 The Commission endorsed the priority activities for the next intersessional period for ETMSS, as described below, with no particular order:

- Improve interaction between the GMDSS Issuing Services and the AMOCs of MPERSS;
- Keep under review the implementation of the GMDSS and MPERSS in the Arctic and continue to support the Issuing Services and AMOCs, to reach the expected target in 2011 for the GMDSS;

- In association with ETWS and ETSI, develop guidelines and recommendations to update WMO-Nos. 471 and 558, especially for the provision of sea state and sea ice in MSI;
- Continue to develop the catalogue on Met-Ocean Object Classes and Attributes to define standards for ENC and e-Navigation, in collaboration with ETSI and guidance from IMO and IHO;
- Continue to enrich the GMDSS web site (<http://weather.gmdss.org>) with forecasts and warnings prepared for NAVTEX dissemination.
- Facilitate implementation of Quality Management Systems (QMSs) among Members for the provision of MMS (Recommendation 7.).

8 Since 1999, ETMSS has been working on the implementation of graphical/numerical Maritime Safety Information (MSI) broadcast within the GMDSS. The WMO Executive Council, at its sixtieth session (Geneva, June 2008) re-emphasized the continuing importance to mariners in receiving graphical products via radio transmissions and requested JCOMM to continue researching methods for transmitting graphical products to marine users. On the other hand, the WMO Executive Council, at its sixty-first session (Geneva, June 2009), encouraged WMO Members to investigate low-cost options for on-demand approaches that are compatible with Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC). In addition, the imminent increase of ENC systems on SOLAS vessels as regulatory material and the emergence of the e-navigation concept within IMO should reinforce the priority given to this requirement and the need to find appropriate resources to develop a suitable service. Both the ETMSS and ETSI have been working on this issue and ETSI has already developed the *Sea Ice Objects Catalogue* in accordance with IHO standards. The ETMSS has initiated the development of a catalogue on *Met-Ocean Object Classes and Attributes*, which would be an essential tool to enable NMHSs to develop products specifically for Electronic Navigation Chart Systems, allowing the implementation of software to decode and display met-ocean information by the manufacturers of these systems, using the S-57 and S-100 chart data exchange standards. ETMSS will continue to develop the catalogue on Met-Ocean Object Class for ENC and e-Navigation, especially for parameters included in MSI. WMO, through the Secretariat and ETMSS, need also to be proactive in dealings with IHO and IMO on e-navigation development, to ensure compatibility between e-navigation and future met-ocean services by Members.

Attachments

Appendix I - ToR and Membership of ETMSS

Appendix I

Terms of Reference and Membership of Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services (ETMSS)

Terms of reference

The Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services, in close collaboration with international organizations and other entities representing users' interests, such as the International Maritime Organization, International Hydrographic Organization, International Chamber of Shipping, International Mobile Satellite Organization, and other concerned organizations and bodies on maritime safety, search and rescue and marine pollution issues, including the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), shall:

- (a) In support of the Maritime Safety, Efficiency, and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations:
 - (i) Monitor and review the operations of marine broadcast systems, including for the GMDSS and others for vessels not covered by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea;
 - (ii) Monitor and review technical and service quality standards for meteorological and oceanographic maritime safety information, particularly for the GMDSS, and provide assistance and support to Members/Member States as required;
 - (iii) Propose actions as appropriate to meet requirements for international coordination of meteorological and related communication services;
 - (iv) Develop technical advice and guidance material on Marine Meteorological Services, including keep under review the *Manual on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 558), the *Guide on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 471) and *Weather Reporting* (WMO-No. 9, Volume D – *Information for Shipping*), and provide assistance and support to Members/Member States as required;
- (b) In support of the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS):
 - (i) Monitor implementation and operations of MPERSS; review and suggest, as necessary, improvements to the contents of the overall system plan; (in consistency with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and other international conventions);
 - (ii) Facilitate coordination and cooperation amongst the Area Meteorological and Oceanographic Coordinators (AMOCs) of MPERSS, in particular, with a view to ensuring full and ongoing operations in all areas, as well as the exchange of relevant advice, information, data and products between AMOCs, as appropriate and required;
- (c) Monitor requirements by ensuring feedback from the user communities is obtained through appropriate and organized channels and applied to improve the relevance, effectiveness and quality of services;

- (d) Liaise with and gather input from ETSI, ETWS and ETOOFS on all aspects of sea ice, sea state, storm surge and ocean circulation relevant to the operation and improvement of maritime safety services and maritime accident emergency support;
- (e) Ensure effective coordination and cooperation with concerned organizations, bodies and Members/Member States on maritime safety issues and marine accident emergency support needs;
- (f) Assist Members/Member States in the implementation of services and in the development of standardized methods for the quality assurance related to the provision of MSI, especially for the GMDSS, through capacity-building activities;
- (g) Develop, in accordance with existing standards (for example, from the International Hydrographic Organization), graphical/numerical product specification for marine parameters, foremost wind, sea state, currents and sea ice, in Electronic Navigation Chart Systems;
- (h) Provide advice to the Services and Forecasting Systems Coordination Group and other JCOMM groups, as required, on issues related to maritime safety services and marine accident emergency support;
- (i) Continue to liaise closely with relevant groups and teams of organizations, such as IMO, IHO, ICS, IMSO, EMSA, etc., to coordinate and improve maritime safety services, SAR and marine accident emergency support.

As a general principle, these terms of reference will be implemented through specific, defined, time-limited projects.

General membership

The membership consists of a core membership of up to eight members, including the chairperson, selected to ensure an appropriate range of expertise in the provision of services for maritime safety and efficiency, SAR operations and marine pollution response.

The following experts serve as core members of the ETMSS:

Alasdair Hainsworth (Australia)
 Mohamed Aitlaamel (Morocco)
 Nicholas Ashton (United Kingdom)
 Oyvind Breivik (Norway)
 Timothy Rulon (United States)
 Valery Martyshchenko (Russian Federation)
 Zenghai Zhang (China)

Additional experts may be invited as appropriate, representative of a range of activities related to the implementation of services for maritime safety and efficiency, SAR operations and marine pollution response, as well as representatives of international organizations and other entities representing users' interests, such as the IMO, IHO, ICS, IMSO, and other user groups, on a self-funded basis, and in general with no resource implications to JCOMM.