

## Outcome of COMSAR 15

Submitted by IHB

### SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides a brief report on the outcome of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Communications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR15)

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: COMSAR15/16

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> session of COMSAR was held at the IMO HQ in London from 7 – 11 March 2011. Admiral Maratos, Steve Shipman and Peter Doherty represented the IHO. The Coordinators from: NAVAREA 1 (UK); NAVAREA II (France); NAVAREAs IV and XII (USA); NAVAREAs XVII and XVIII (Canada) and NAVAREA XIX (Norway) were represented.
2. The Sub-Committee considered submissions by the IHO and approved a draft revised NAVTEX Manual which has subsequently been adopted by MSC 89 and issued as MSC Circ 1403 (English only at the time of writing this paper). The Sub-Committee approved the issue of a revised COMSAR Circular regarding the details of NAVAREA Co-ordinators and noted the IHO report on the outcome of WWNWS2. The Sub-Committee approved a draft IMO Assembly resolution on the World-Wide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service, which will complement resolution A.706(17), as amended, on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. This was endorsed by MSC89 and should be adopted by the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO Assembly in November 2011.
3. COMSAR 15 continued its scoping exercise on the review of the GMDSS and established a CG to pursue this work which is due to complete at COMSAR 16 in 2012. COMSAR also continued its work on e-Navigation and provided feedback to the CG established by NAV and to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of NAV which was held in June 2011. In particular COMSAR agreed that IHO's S-100 data model should be used as a baseline for creating a framework for data access and information services under the scope of e-Navigation and that the IMO, in consultation with other organizations should consider the establishment of a Harmonization Group on creating a framework for data access and information services under the scope of SOLAS, based on the example of the IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on ECDIS.
4. A special event to mark the successful establishment of the 5 new Arctic NAVAREAs / METAREAs was held during a session of the COMSAR 15 Sub-Committee meeting. This session was addressed by Mr P DOHERTY (Chairman of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee), Mr E MITROPOULOS (Secretary General of the IMO), Mr M JARRAUD (Secretary General of WMO), and Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS (President of the IHB). The session was followed by a reception for COMSAR 15 delegates which was kindly sponsored by the Norwegian Coastal Administration and Inmarsat Global Ltd.
5. The full report of COMSAR 15 is available in IMO document COMSAR15/16.

6. COMSAR 16 is scheduled at the IMO HQ in London from 12 - 16 March 2012. The WWNWS WG on the WWNWS Documentation will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at IMO HQ in the week following COMSAR16.

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided.