

Outcomes of COMSAR 16

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the outcomes of COMSAR 16, which are relevant to WWNWS-SC

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2.

Related documents: COMSAR 16/17 dated 23 March 2012

1. COMSAR 16 was held at IMO Headquarters in London 12 – 16 March 2012. The following items are of relevance to WWNWS-SC:

- a) COMSAR 16/3/2 submitted by the IHO reported on the outcome of the 3rd meeting of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee which was held at the IHB in Monaco from 13 – 16 September 2011. The report was noted.
- b) COMSAR 16/3/3 submitted by IHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) proposed the cancellation of COMSAR/Circ.36 on the broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters with effect from 1 January 2013 when the final revised WWNWS publication, the NAVTEX Manual, enters into force. The cancellation of the Circular was approved.
- c) COMSAR 16/3/4 submitted by IHO, WMO and IMSO proposed amendments to Annex 8 of MSC.1/Circ.1382 on International SafetyNET Services within the GMDSS. The proposed amendments were agreed and the revised Annex 8 was submitted to and adopted by MSC 90.
- d) COMSAR 16/3/7 submitted by the Chairman of IMO's NAVTEX Coordinating Panel (Mr Guy Beale – UK and NAVAREA 1 Co-ordinator) reported on the current issues being addressed by the Panel. The report was noted and the Sub-Committee expressed its gratitude to Cdr Tim Sewell, the former Chairman of the Panel for his efforts over several years.
- e) COMSAR 16/3 on the report of the CG considering the “Scoping exercise to establish the need for a review of the elements and procedures of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)”, previously distributed to sub-committee members. The Sub-Committee prepared a draft Work Plan for the “Revision and Modernization of the GMDSS, which was submitted to MSC 90 for adoption. It is envisaged that the review should be

completed during the period 2013 – 2015 with the modernization plan being implemented in the period 2015 – 2017.

f) The Sub-Committee considered document COMSAR 16/16 submitted by the UK, IHO, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA) reporting on recently identified anomalies in the operation of ECDIS and asking in particular for assistance in communicating such information to mariners. The IHO indicated that it would consider this matter during its WNWNS document review meeting and make proposals to COMSAR 17. In the interim the Chairman of the WNWNS Sub-Committee confirmed he would do all within his power to ensure that such messages were broadcast by all NAVAREA Co-ordinators. Further information on this topic is in IHB CL 33/2012.

2. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.