

WWNWS Report to IRCC 5

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the WWNWS-SC report to IRCC 5.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2.

Related documents: IRCC 5 Report to be issued by IHB

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

**REPORT OF THE WORD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE
SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS-SC) TO THE IRCC 5
SUBMITTED BY CHAIRMAN: PETER M. DOHERTY – USA**

The WWNWS-SC monitors and guides the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)/ International Maritime Organization (IMO) World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) which includes NAVAREA and coastal warnings. The WWNWS-SC is responsible for studying and proposing new methods to enhance the provision of navigational warnings to mariners at sea, facilitating the implementation of the major changes in procedures for dissemination of navigational warnings and providing appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State Representatives to further the evolution of the WWNWS. The Sub-Committee also maintains a close liaison and cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for its Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WMMIWS) and METAREA Coordinators.

The fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee was held at the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), Japan Coast Guard, in Tokyo, from 24 to 28 September 2012 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 18 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives of 12 NAVAREA Coordinators, 1 Sub-Area Coordinator and 5 National Coordinators.

All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at:
http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS4/WWNWS4.htm. The full report of the meeting is also available from this site.

Some of the major initiatives of the WWNWS-SC over the past year include:

WWNWS Documentation Review/Update

The WWNWS relies on various IMO/IHO documents to provide guidance for the promulgation of internationally co-ordinated NAVAREA and Coastal warnings. Further, the WWNWS systems used for dissemination of the maritime safety information, SafetyNET and NAVTEX respectively, each have their own guidance document. Due to the varied update cycle of these documents, there were many inconsistencies which caused confusion for users. Having completed the holistic review of the WWNWS Guidance documents; it was necessary for the Document Review WG to undertake further editorial reviews in order to ensure current procedures and terminology were correctly articulated in the guidance documents.

In order to take advantage of members attending IMO COMSAR 17, the WWNWS Document Review WG held a meeting at the IMO HQ during the week following COMSAR. Representatives from China, France, UK, USA, IMSO, WMO, Inmarsat and the IHB attended the meeting. The Document Review WG continued its work with a final proof review of the Annex 7 of MSC.1/Circ.1382/Rev.1 containing the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS), IMO Resolutions A.705(17) on the Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information and A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, all of which had been approved during COMSAR 17 for consideration at IMO MSC 92 in June. The WG also prepared draft editorial amendments to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI (IHO Publication S-53) for further consideration at WWNWS 5 and submission to the appropriate IMO sub-committee in 2014.

The following papers were either submitted or reviewed by this Sub-Committee at IMO COMSAR 17:

- a) The outcome of the 4th meeting of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee held at the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), Japan Coast Guard, in Tokyo, from 24 to 28 September 2012. The report was noted.
- b) Revision to Annex 7 of MSC.1/Circ.1382/Rev.1 containing the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS). The revision was approved.
- c) Proposed draft amendments to IMO Resolutions A.705(17) on the Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information and A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. The amendments were approved.
- d) Report on the current issues being addressed by the IMO's NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel. The report was noted.

E-Navigation, AIS Aids to Navigation and GMDSS Modernization

The WWNWS-SC considered these matters and their impact on the work of the sub-committee. Advice and guidance continues to be provided to IMO through IHO member states' national delegations and, when appropriate, at the relevant IMO committees and sub-committees attended by IHO delegates.

Maritime Safety Information Capacity Building Training Course

WWNWS-SC, in conjunction with support from the IHO CBSC, has continued to deliver its comprehensive training course which provides practical guidance for those countries within a RHC who are concerned with drafting navigational warnings or with the issuance of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for the high seas under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The objective of this course is to increase the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA Coordinators for promulgation, and ultimately to emphasize the importance of establishing expertise in the countries within these NAVAREAs, to fulfil the role of National Coordinators. Training documentation for this course has been developed in English, French and Spanish. To date, there have been 8 Courses with over 60 countries and approximately 125 students taking part in this training initiative. Previous courses have been held in Jamaica for the MESO American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission, in Mozambique for the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission, in Spain for the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission, in Ghana for the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission, in Oman for North Indian Ocean and ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commissions, in Namibia for the South Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission, in Australia for the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and in Brazil for the Meso-American and Caribbean and South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commissions. A further 2 courses are programmed to be delivered in 2013 covering the Caribbean and southern Indian Ocean regions.

Several members of the Sub-Committee expressed concern that following receipt of MSI training some students did not spend very long in a relevant post before moving on and that in several cases communications were soon broken. WWNWS 4 expressed the view that it might be appropriate to require a guaranteed period in a relevant post before being accepted on to the course. It was agreed that the IHB should raise this matter with the IMO and also at the Inter-Organization CB Training Meeting.

The WWNWS-SC acknowledges the continuing support from UK, USA, France and the regional NAVAREA Coordinators in delivering this training support.

WWNWS CD-ROM

The WWNWS-SC continues to produce a “WWNWS CD-ROM” as an effective way to keep all members informed on the progress of the work of the Sub-Committee. The CD provides each NAVAREA Coordinator with a common platform for the multitude of historical guidance documents, manuals, publications, diagrams, meeting minutes, points of contacts, websites and major initiatives since WWNWS-SC inception, including additional MSI sources from the IHO, IMO and WMO. The Chairman requests that all members review the content of the CD-ROM as it is a standing agenda item for delegates to provide any updates, comments, and additional information they deem worthy for inclusion.

Next Meeting

The fifth meeting of the WWNWS-SC will take place in Monaco from 1 – 4 October 2013. Meeting information is made available from the IHO web site.

