

WMO Liaison Report
Submitted by WMO

SUMMARY

Exec Summary:

This document provides a brief report on the activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) since WWNWS7, mainly enacted through the work of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and marine Meteorology (JCOMM) in providing marine weather information for the GMDSS

Action to be taken:

- 1) Note and comment on the information provided
- 2) Provide recommendations and suggestions as appropriate

Related documents: None

1. Major outcomes of the 68th Session of the WMO Executive Council

The 68th session of the WMO Executive Council (EC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15th to 24th June 2016. Two documents for action / decision were submitted as well as two information documents (attached). The full report will be available from the WMO website.

As main highlights of interest for the WWNWS, the WMO Executive Council endorsed:

- i) The work on marine warnings and forecasts, as enacted through the World-Wide Metocean Information & Warnings Service (WWMIWS) under the auspices of IMO Assembly resolution A.1051(27) and
- ii) the formation of a small group of WMO Members to undertake a Technical Assessment of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme within WMO. This Group aims to align the work of WMO's Marine Programme with the overall WMO Strategic Plan and the users of the marine outputs, including the GMDSS.

2. WMO Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No.558 & WMO-No.471)

The WMO Executive Council at its 65th session (2013) endorsed the proposal by JCOMM to review the overall structure of the WMO-No.558 and WMO-No.471, in view of new structures for those mandatory publications avoiding duplication and/or potential conflict in contents.

Work has continued to review and update, specifically, WMO-No.558 – the Manual on Marine Meteorology, which forms the basis of the meteorological input to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information. This has proved to be a complex review, requiring not only updating of the “MSI” information, but also coordination with other WMO regulatory material relating to Port

Meteorological Officers (PMO), the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) programme; additionally, the material on Search & Rescue needed to be aligned with WMO Aviation regulations. It is still planned that approval for the changes will be received at the 5th Session of JCOMM in October 2017.

3. Quality Management & Marine Competencies

As outlined at WWNWS7, a set of competency requirements for marine weather forecasters (MWF) has been developed by JCOMM. Work is now underway to implement these competency standards, alongside Quality Management Frameworks, at offices producing marine weather output. Consideration is also being given to aligning this with the IMO Audit Scheme to provide a comprehensive assurance of the quality of MSI available to the mariner.

4. Joint IMO/WMO/IHO “Secretariat Group”

As briefly outlined at WWNWS7, to improve coordination of the content and delivery of MSI, a joint IMO/IHO/WMO “Secretariat Group” was established towards the end of 2015. This group has met twice (generously hosted by IMO at their London headquarters) with the next meeting planned for December 2016 (hosted by WMO in Geneva).

5. Enhancements to the Metarea network and provision of MSI

Over the recent period, a number of National Meteorological Services have expressed a wish to become a Preparation or Issuing Service for meteorological aspects of MSI; these include Peru, Qatar and Papua New Guinea.

After finalising a suitable framework for enabling such expansion to the network, WMO were pleased that, during August 2016, Peru commenced the issue of forecasts for Metarea XVI on a trial basis, for assessment by the JCOMM Expert team on Maritime Safety Services. This trial is scheduled to last until mid-September and, if successful, it is envisaged that Peru will become the formal Issuing Service shortly after, subject to agreement on a date for the transfer of responsibility from the USA.

Whilst it is apparent that the introduction of Papua New Guinea may take slightly longer, Australia is monitoring the output, again on a trial basis, with a view to advising when it feels that PNG may be ready to undertake a full trial.

Although at an early stage, work is underway for Qatar to become a Preparation Service for Metarea IX (with Pakistan retaining responsibility as the Issuing Service).