

REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETINGS

Submitted by IHO Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of forthcoming IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 5

Related documents: None

1. The current Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the World Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) include the following articles:
 4. Provide appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State Representatives to further the evolution of the WWNWS with respect to the full implementation of the GMDSS to include attendance at the Conferences of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and to develop and monitor standards for watch stander training;
 7. Cooperate with other international organizations concerned with improving the global standards for disseminating Maritime Safety Information (MSI), namely IMO, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO); and
 8. Liaise with the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) for the delivery of training courses aimed at improving Navigational Warning Services;
2. The IHO Capacity Building strategy lays particular emphasis on the fundamental capability for all coastal States to provide a maritime safety information (MSI) service in support of their international obligations under the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). One area of concern is the apparent inability for countries to support the recipients of IHO MSI training. The major issue remains the establishment and maintenance of reliable communications by relevant coastal state administrations with their appropriate NAVAREA Coordinator via a suitably qualified individual. This is despite MSI training being provided by the IHO in most cases. Contact with the many of coastal states remains dysfunctional as reported by the NAVAREA Coordinators.
3. The Secretariat of the IHO encourages targeted participation at and engagement with appropriate Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) meetings to achieve these goals and obligations. The NAVAREA reports provided to the RHC meetings often do not allow the chair or the regional Capacity Building Coordinator to develop a clear picture of the true state of MSI provision within their region. The IHO Secretariat extracts what appropriate information it can from the Self-Assessment reports, however these do not provide complete

details for all the coastal states within a region. Often the NAVAREA focuses on the activities of the NAVAREA Coordinator rather than the (in)activities of the national coordinators within their region; in most cases a true reflection of the current state of MSI provision is not provided due to lack of knowledge or cultural discretion, both of hamper the efforts to improve the service provided to the maritime community.

4. Revisions have been made to the Self-Assessment report to facilitate the provision of the necessary information, in addition NAVAREA Coordinators are invited to contact their national RHC representative to enhance the contents of the MSI/NAVAREA reports to assist in the development of more robust Capacity Building Phase One actions. The limited funds mean that the regions most in need must be prioritised and targeted, whilst the impact of assistance and training requires to be better measured for its medium to longer term influence. Details of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings are at Annex A.

5. The WWNWS-SC is invited to:

- a. **Note** the information provided;
- b. **Identify and prioritise** RHC meetings for which Capacity Building should be prioritised;
- c. **Encourage** closer engagement/dialogue between NAVAREA and Regional Capacity Building Coordinators;
- d. **Invite** NAVAREA Coordinators to contact their national RHC representatives with the objective of enhancing the MSI provision information presented at RHC meetings; and
- e. Take any other **Action** deemed appropriate.

Annex:

A. Table of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings.

RHC Meeting Calendar

Commission	2017		2018		2019	
	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location	Date
Arctic	Ilulissat, Greenland	22-24 Aug				
Baltic Sea	Rostock, Germany	19-21 Sep				
East Asia	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>	<i>22-24 Feb</i>		Sep/Oct		
East Atlantic	-	-	Lagos, Nigeria	17-19 Oct		
Meso American and Caribbean	Varadero, Cuba	27 Nov-2 Dec				
Mediterranean and Black Sea	<i>Herceg Novi, Montenegro</i>	<i>4-6 Jul</i>	-	-	Cádiz, Spain	18-20 Jun
Nordic	<i>Elsinore, Denmark</i>	<i>6-8 Mar</i>	Sweden	10-12 Apr		
North Indian Ocean	<i>Cairo, Egypt</i>	<i>17-20 Jul</i>	Goa, India	9-12 Apr		
North Sea	-	-	Ostend, Belgium	27-28 Mar	-	-
ROPME Sea Area	<i>Muscat, Oman</i>	<i>20-22 Feb</i>	-	-	Manama, Bahrain (tbc)	Feb
South Africa and Islands	La Réunion	6-8 Sep				
South East Pacific	Cartagena, Colombia	21-25 Aug	-	-		
South West Atlantic	<i>Niterói, Brazil</i>	<i>6-7 Mar</i>	Montevideo, Uruguay	Apr		
South West Pacific	-	-	Kiribati	Feb/Mar		
USA and Canada	<i>Galveston, USA</i>	<i>20 Mar</i>				
Antarctica	<i>Wellington, New Zealand</i>	<i>27-29 Jun</i>				

Meetings in italics have already taken place.