

4th HSSC MEETING
Taunton, 25-28 September 2012

Paper for Consideration by HSSC
IMO ACTIVITIES AFFECTING HSSC

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This paper summarizes recent discussions and decisions taken by IMO that may be relevant to the work of HSSC.
Related Documents:	HSSC Work Programme HSSC4-07.1B – <i>Progress report on action taken concerning unexpected behaviour of some ECDIS</i>

Introduction

1. The principal IMO decisions and discussions that may affect the work of HSSC arose from the 90th meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC90), held in May 2012 and the 58th meeting of the IMO Sub Committee on the Safety of Navigation (NAV58) that met in June 2012. The IHO, as an accredited observer to the IMO was formally represented by the IHB at these meetings. A number of representatives drawn from hydrographic offices also formed part of various national delegations.
2. Recommendations from NAV58 will be considered by the MSC at its next meeting (MSC 91, London, UK, 26–30 November 2012). NAV59 is scheduled to meet from 2 – 6 September 2013.

Development of an IMO e-navigation Strategy

3. NAV58 continued its work on developing an implementation plan for e-navigation. A WG was established during NAV58 and the IMO e-Navigation correspondence Group (CG), led by Norway (John-Erik Hagen), was re-established to continue its work and report back to NAV59. The CG also has to provide interim reports to the IMO Sub-Committees on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) and Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW), regarding topics within their areas of expertise. The work of the CG was focussed on a Gap Analysis. It is now concentrating on completing a description of the e-Navigation architecture and developing a strategy implementation plan for e-Navigation.
4. MSC90 endorsed the use of IHO S-100 as the baseline standard for creating a framework for data access and e-Navigation services under the scope of SOLAS.
5. MSC90 also authorized the establishment of an IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling and approved its Terms of Reference. Membership will be open to representatives of both IHO and IMO Member States. However, in the absence of any identified work items for the Harmonization Group, it will remain dormant for the present.

New Symbols for AIS Aids to Navigation

6. As reported to HSSC-2, the IHO had submitted a paper to NAV56 in 2010 suggesting that “policy” for the use of Virtual Aids to Navigation should be developed before considering what detailed symbology should be used. This work is continuing as part of an IMO Correspondence Group under the leadership of Japan (Cdr Hideki Noguchi, Japan Coast Guard). The CG will report back to NAV59 in September 2013 with its recommendations and final proposals.
7. In the interim, and because Virtual Aids to Navigation (Virtual AtoN) are already being deployed, CSPCWG has developed a range of Virtual AtoN symbols for use on charts. These symbols have been adopted by Member states and included in S-4 together with a note indicating that the use of Virtual AtoN has not yet been endorsed by IMO. IMO has been informed of this.

Maritime Safety Information

8. The IHO Sub-Committee on World Wide Navigational Warning Service, which is a subordinate body of the IRCC continues its work in support of the IHO/IMO World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) which includes NAVAREA and coastal warnings. At its 16th session in March this year, IMO COMSAR established a Correspondence Group to begin a review of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS). This review is likely to have consequences for how the WWNWS is delivered in the future. For this reason, the IHO Sub Committee will monitor the review process and be ready to advise as necessary. This will be in addition to its ongoing work items that includes completing the review of IHO and Joint IMO/IHO/WMO manuals and documentation, establishment of a NAVTEX service in the Caspian Sea and other NAVTEX operational issues, development of example warning text on AIS Aids to Navigation in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual and a S-100 based product specification for Ocean Forecasts.

Operating Anomalies in ECDIS

9. Both MSC and NAV have discussed matters related to various operating anomalies in the operation of ECDIS. This topic is reported more fully in paper HSSC4-07.1B – *Progress report on action taken concerning unexpected behaviour of some ECDIS*.

Action Required of HSSC

10. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. **Note** this report
 - b. **Take any actions** considered necessary