

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

**1ST REPORT OF PROMULGATION
OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS SUB COMMITTEE (PRNW SC) TO THE IRCC
SUBMITTED BY CHAIRMAN: PETER M. DOHERTY - USA**

The PRNW 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 PRNW is responsible to study and propose new methods to enhance the provision of navigational warnings to mariners at sea, facilitate the implementation of the major changes in procedures for disseminating navigational warnings and to provide appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State Representatives to further the evolution of the WWNWS.

The 10th meeting of CPRNW (PRNW) was held at the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation, Niteroi, Brazil, from 25 – 29 August 2008. The meeting was attended by 30 representatives from the following 15 Member States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, India, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. These included 13 NAVAREA Co-ordinators and 1 Sub-area Co-ordinator. Observers from WMO and Inmarsat and a representative from the IHB also attended. Major agenda items for this meeting included: NAVAREA Assessments, WWNWS expansion into the Arctic Ocean, WWNSWS Guidance Document Review, an IMO report, a WMO report and emerging technologies within safety of navigation services. This was the last meeting of the CPRNW before the name change to PRNWSC took place in Jan 2009.

The full report of the meeting and all meeting documents are available from the IHO web site www.iho.int >Committees>CPRNW.

Some of the major initiatives of the CPRNW over the past 5 years include:

WWNWS Documentation Review/Update

The WWNWS relies on various IMO/IHO documents to provide guidance for the promulgation of internationally coordinated 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 that caused confusion for member states. The CPRNW, deciding that a holistic review of the WWNWS Guidance documents was necessary in order to bring them into alignment and to prevent future reference to inaccurate information, established a Document Review WG. Following the approval by IMO COMSAR 12 of the amendments to resolutions A.705(17) as amended and A.706(17) as amended, CPRNW considered in detail the draft revisions to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information and IHO Publications S-53 and S-53 Appendix 1. The work on these publications was subsequently sent out to IHO Member States (CL 70/08

dated 12 September) and to WMO for approval prior to submission to COMSAR 13. CPRNW also gave some preliminary consideration to the work undertaken on revising the International SafetyNET Manual. This document was considered further by the Document WG during the week following COMSAR 13. It is intended that the revision to this manual will be finalised at PRNW1 prior to submission to IHO Member States for approval and subsequent submission to COMSAR 14 in 2010.

Expansion of the WNWNS into the Arctic Ocean

The IMO/IHO recognized the increased use of the Arctic region by all elements of the maritime community; commercial, military and scientific, and the need for the Arctic Ocean to be respected as the other temperate oceans and navigated with similar concern for the presence of hazards to navigation. Accordingly, the IMO approved the establishment of a Joint IMO/IHO/WMO CG on Arctic MSI Services, to address the expansion of the WNWNS into the Arctic waters. As the agreement of the IHO is sought in proposed amendments to the WNWNS, CPRNW has taken an active and leading role in the review and endorsement of this important issue. Much work has been completed to date including formal IMO approval of the designation of Canada, Norway and the Russian Federation as NAVAREA/METAREA Authorities, area boundary limits, dissemination services and training needs.

In collaboration with the new Arctic NAVAREA/METAREA authorities, CPRNW was of the view that test transmissions could commence in 2009 / 2010 with all NAVAREA/METAREAs being declared “operational” on a common date probably in 2011. CPRNW was also of the view that this declaration of operational status for the Arctic, being a milestone in the delivery of MSI, merited a major celebration by the IMO, IHO and WMO. Further, a revised ToR was given to the joint IMO/IHO/WMO CG on Arctic MSI Services which focuses on updates to the Inmarsat System Definition Manual, issuance of SafetyNET certificates, SafetyNET and NAVTEX scheduling timeframes, MSI training and testing before full operational status.

Maritime Safety Information Capacity Building Training Course

CPRNW in conjunction with support from the IHO CBC developed a comprehensive training course to provide practical guidance for those countries within a RHC who are concerned with drafting radio navigational warnings or with the issuance of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for the high seas under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This course is directly supported with instructors from the United States National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the United Kingdom’s Hydrographic Organization and the RHC’s NAVAREA Coordinator within the training area. 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 and most recently the successful completion of the third MSI training course in Spain for the Mediterranean and Black Seas Regional Hydrographic Commission. A fourth course is being planned for the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission in Sep 15-17, 2009 in Accra, Ghana with additional courses planned for the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission and the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission in the Nov 2009 timeframe.

WWNWS CD-ROM

The CPRNW designed its own “WWNWS CD-ROM” as an effective way to keep all members informed on the progress of the work of the Commission. The CD provides each NAVAREA Coordinator a common platform for the multitude of historical guidance

documents, manuals, publications, diagrams, meeting minutes, points of contacts, websites and major initiatives since CPRNW inception, including additional MSI source from the IHO, IMO and WMO. Each delegate is provided an updated copy of the CD_ROM at the Annual meeting. The Chairman request's 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.

Suggested Name Change for the PRNW

CPRNW considered and approved a draft ToR and RoP required in order to take into account the revised IHO Committee Structure which came into force on 1 January 2009. The members endorsed the decision it took at CPRNW9 that it would recommend that its name should become the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS). The Chairman will present the draft ToR and RoP to the meeting of the Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC) at its first meeting in June 2009. CPRNW decided to postpone the election of a Vice-chair, as will be required under the new RoP, until its 2009 meeting

Next Meeting

CPRNW11 (PRNW1) will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 18 – 21 August 2009. Meeting information is made available from the IHO web site.