

**THIRD MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC3  
Niteroi, Brazil, 26-27 May 2011**

**REPORT OF THE WORDWIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE  
SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS-SC) TO THE IRCC  
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 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 second meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee was held in Sydney, Australia, from 9 - 13 August 2010 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 36 delegates from 15 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included 13 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-Area Co-ordinator and 2 National Co-ordinators. Two representatives from “Electrotec” attended to give a presentation on the display of Maritime Safety Information in ECDIS. The presentation was well received, but the initiative is still very much in the early stages of development.

The full report of the meeting and all meeting documents are available from the IHO web site [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) >Committees>WWNWS-SC.

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 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 WWNWS-SC, 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 completion of the review of all WWNWS documents IMO resolutions A.705(17), as amended; A.706(17), as amended; the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual and (IHO

publication S-53); the International SafetyNET Manual; and the NAVTEX Manual, the WG then reviewed all approved texts for consistency of terminology. A number of small inconsistencies have been noted. These will be reported to WVNWS3 in September and reviewed further in 2012 prior to any further submission to IMO COMSAR.

### **Expansion of the WVNWS into the Arctic Ocean**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced the establishment of five new Arctic NAVAREAs/METAREAs (see attached NAVAREA graphic) as part of the expansion of the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WVNWS) into Arctic waters in June 2010. This announcement included wide dissemination through the International SafetyNET Service and through National Notice to Mariners.

On 1 July 2010, an International SafetyNET Service for broadcasting navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecasts in the English language message was disseminated by the Arctic NAVAREAs/METAREAs declaring to be in an “Initial Operational Capability” (IOC) for the Arctic waters with a transition to “Full Operational Capability” (FOC) expected on 1 June 2011.

During the IOC period, the Arctic NAVAREA/METAREAs were providing navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecasts on an intermittent and test basis. The broadcasting of SafetyNET messages to the new Arctic NAVAREA/METAREAs were and will continue to be addressed to rectangular area(s) until the SafetyNET receiver modifications with the inclusion of the NAVAREA/METAREAs boundary limits and its identification are in place. Reception of rectangular addressed messages should be automatic providing the ship’s position is inside the addressed area. However, mariners were advised to check their manufacturer’s operation manuals to obtain information on the setting of their EGC receivers to receive relevant SafetyNET messages.

### **Maritime Safety Information Capacity Building Training Course**

WVNWS-SC 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 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 fulfill the role of National Coordinators. This course is directly supported with instructors from the United States National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the United Kingdom’s Hydrographic Organization and the NAVAREA Coordinator from within the training region. To date, there have been 7 Courses with over 120 students and 60 countries 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 Sea 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 and most recently in Australia (Aug 2010) for the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission. The eighth course will be held in Brazil on May 16-18, 2011, for the Meso-American and Caribbean and South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commissions.

The WNWNS-SC is pleased to note that additional students from the SWPHC region were able to attend the Australia course due to financial support from IMO's Technical Cooperation Fund.

The WNWNS-SC acknowledges the continuing support from UK, USA and the regional NAVAREA Co-ordinators in delivering this training support.

### **WWNWS CD-ROM**

The WNWNS-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 a common platform for the multitude of historical guidance documents, manuals, publications, diagrams, meeting minutes, points of contacts, websites and major initiatives since WNWNS-SC 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.

### **Next Meeting**

The third meeting of the WNWNS-SC will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 13 – 16 September 2011. Meeting information is made available from the IHO web site.

