



4, quai Antoine 1er  
B.P. 445  
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX  
PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO

Tel : +377.93.10.81.00  
Fax : +377.93.10.81.40  
e-mail : [info@ihb.mc](mailto:info@ihb.mc)  
web : [www.ihb.int](http://www.ihb.int)

## **REPORT OF THE WORD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE**

### **SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS-SC) TO THE IRCC 4**

#### **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 for studying and proposing new methods to enhance the provision of navigational warnings to mariners at sea, facilitating the implementation of the major changes in procedures for dissemination of navigational warnings and providing appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State Representatives to further the evolution of the WWNWS.

The third meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee was held at the IHB in Monaco, from 13 –16 September 2011 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 27 delegates from 17 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives of 12 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-Area Co-ordinator and 4 National Co-ordinators.

All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS3/WWNWS3.htm](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS3/WWNWS3.htm). The full report of the meeting is also available from this site.

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 co-ordinated 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 which caused confusion for users. 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.



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Following the approval by IMO COMSAR15, and subsequent adoption by MSC89, of the NAVTEX Manual, WWNWS3 focused its attention on a holistic review of all the WWNWS documentation to ensure a 100% consistency of guidance and terminology used across all documents.

In order to take advantage of members attending IMO COMSAR 16, the WWNWS Document Review WG held a meeting at the IMO HQ during the week following COMSAR. Representatives from France, Italy, UK, USA, WMO, Inmarsat and the IHB attended the meeting. The review considered all the WWNWS documentation with the intention of ensuring consistency of terminology. Amendments to resolutions A.705(17), as amended “Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information”; and A.706(17), as amended, “World-Wide Navigational Warning Service” will be considered by the WWNWS SC before submission to IHO Member States and subsequent submission to COMSAR 17 in 2013. Draft amendments to the MSI Manual to include the topic of ECDIS anomalies, were prepared. However, following consideration of the adoption in December 2011 of resolution A.1051(27) “World-Wide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS)”, it was considered that a significant restructuring of the MSI Manual was required and this would require more time. It is intended that revisions of the MSI Manual, the International SafetyNET Manual and the NAVTEX Manual be prepared with submission to COMSAR 18 in 2014.

### **Expansion of the WWNWS 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 (WWNWS) into Arctic waters in June 2010. This announcement included wide dissemination through the International SafetyNET Service and through National Notice to Mariners. Reports were received from all the new Arctic NAVAREAs confirming that they had satisfactorily entered Full Operational Capability (FOC) on 1 June 2011 as planned. 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 their identification are in place. Reception of rectangular addressed messages should be automatic providing the ship’s position is within 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.



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**The following papers were either submitted or reviewed by this Sub-Committee at IMO COMSAR16:**

- a) The outcome of the 3rd meeting of the IHO WNWNS Sub-Committee held at the IHB in Monaco from 13 – 16 September 2011. The report was noted.
- b) Proposing the cancellation of COMSAR/Circ.36 on the broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters with effect from 1 January 2013 when the final revised WNWNS publication, the NAVTEX Manual, enters into force. The cancellation of the Circular was approved.
- c) Proposing amendments to Annex 8 of MSC.1/Circ.1382 on International SafetyNET Services within the GMDSS. The proposed amendments were agreed and the revised Annex 8 will now go to MSC90 for adoption.
- d) Report on the current issues being addressed by the IMO's NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel. The report was noted.
- e) Report considering the "Scoping exercise to establish the need for a review of the elements and procedures of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)." The Sub-Committee prepared a draft Work Plan for the "Revision and Modernization of the GMDSS to be submitted to MSC 90 for adoption. It is envisaged that the review should be completed during the period 2013 – 2015 with the modernization plan being implemented in the period 2015 – 2017.

**Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS**

COMSAR 16 considered reports on recently identified anomalies in the operation of ECDIS and asked in particular for assistance in communicating such information to mariners. The WNWNS-SC considered this matter during its WNWNS document review meeting and made proposals to COMSAR 17. In the interim, the WNWNS-SC would do all within its power to ensure that such messages were broadcast by all NAVAREA Co-ordinators. Further information on this topic is in IHB CL 33/2012.

**Maritime Safety Information Capacity Building Training Course**

WWNWS-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



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(GMDSS). The objective of this course is to increase the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA Co-ordinators for promulgation, and ultimately to emphasize the importance of establishing expertise in the countries within these NAVAREAs, to fulfill the role of National Co-ordinators. Training documentation for this course has been developed in English, French and Spanish. To date, there have been 8 Courses with over 60 countries and approximately 125 students 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 Seas 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, in Australia for the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and most recently in Brazil on May 16-18, 2011, for the Meso-American and Caribbean and South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commissions.

Several members of the Sub-Committee expressed concern that following receipt of MSI training some students did not spend very long in a relevant post before moving on and that in several cases communications were soon broken. WWNWS3 expressed the view that it might be appropriate to require a guaranteed period in a relevant post before being accepted on to course. It was agreed that the IHB should raise this matter with the IMO and also at the Inter-Organization CB Training Meeting.

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

### **WWNWS CD-ROM**

The WWNWS-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 Co-ordinator with a common platform for the multitude of historical guidance documents, manuals, publications, diagrams, meeting minutes, points of contacts, websites and major initiatives since WWNWS-SC inception, including additional MSI sources from the IHO, IMO and WMO. The Chairman requests 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 fourth meeting of the WWNWS-SC will take place in Tokyo, Japan from 24 – 28 September 2012. Meeting information is made available from the IHO web site.

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
BUREAU**



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