

REPORT OF THE WORD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE

SUB-COMMITTEE (WWNWS-SC) TO THE IRCC 6

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 fifth meeting of the WWNWS-SC was held at the IHB in Monaco, from 1 - 4 October 2013 under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Doherty (USA-NGA). The meeting was attended by 42 delegates from 22 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), Iridium Satellite LLC, and Inmarsat Global Ltd. The delegates included representatives from 19 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 1 Sub-Area Co-ordinator and 5 National Co-ordinators.

All meeting documents are available from the IHO web site at: The full report of the meeting is also available from this site.

http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS5/WWNWS5.htm.

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 Work Group (DRWG).

The WWNWS-SC notes that all relevant documents related to Maritime Safety Information (MSI) have now been adopted by IMO and that the current intention is to review and ensure that there is 100% consistency between them and not to propose any significant new matters at present. It was noted that the extensive week-long review sessions that have followed IMO COMSAR over the past several years have resulted in the quality documents which are now available.

All draft documents under development by the DRWG are made available from the WWNWS page of the IHO web site and Member States are invited to submit any comments to the Chairman and IHB. Any suggested changes or amendments and further work will be

undertaken at the 12th meeting of the DRWG, which will be held the week after the first session of the IMO Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue Sub-Committee (NCSR) at IMO Headquarters in London in mid-July 2014. The work will then be finalised at the next meeting of the WNWNS prior to submission to Member States, the WMO and the IMO.

MSI Capacity Building Training Course

The WNWNS-SC notes the first of two MSI courses had been held 20-22 May in Trinidad, in support of the MESO American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC). Eighteen students attended from 13 different countries. The second MSI course was conducted in South Africa, 16-18 December, in support of the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC). Twelve students attended from ten different countries. In 2014 there is currently only one course scheduled. It will be conducted for the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) and will be conducted in New Zealand following WNWNS 6 in August 2014. The WNWNS-SC notes its thanks to the USA, UK, and France for their extensive support for these training courses and the work undertaken in the continuing requirement to review the training material to ensure consistency with the amended supporting manuals and documentation.

S-100 Exchange Format for MSI

IHO Director Gilles Bessero presented an overview of the S-100 geospatial data framework model underpinning the next-generation Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC) at WNWNS 5. France also introduced and presented a paper on the same subject, document WNWNS5/3/4/5A-Rev.1 S-100 Exchange Format for MSI. From it, the WNWNS-SC agreed to establish a working group - NAVAREA I, II, and IV volunteered to be part of it - to develop an MSI standard for S-100. The working group's first deliverable will be to provide an overview describing its goals and a timeline for achieving with follow on discussions to be presented at the Aug 2014 meeting of the SC.

Inmarsat-C EGC SafetyNET Report

A representative from Inmarsat introduced and presented his paper, document WNWNS5/3/4/1 at the 2013 meeting. He provided an update on its satellite-based services and gave insight into some of its newer technologies, most notably Fleet Broadband (FB) and its new Maritime Safety Data Service (MSDS). MSDS is cloud based with a central server that provides a more efficient path to disseminate, collect, and archive distress information and MSI. Ultimately, it seems that maritime safety information providers, NAVAREA Coordinators, will be able to not only access their own warnings as soon as they are sent, but warnings from any other NAVAREA coordinator as well - a promising new development.

Contingency Planning

The Deputy Director General of IMSO presented an overview of Inmarsat's contingency planning exercises at WNWNS 5. The WNWNS-SC requested that an exercise between NAVAREA IV/XII and NAVAREA XVII/XVIII be undertaken to test the capability to disseminate warnings seamlessly on behalf of each other. The results are to be reported at WNWNS 6.

Outcome of the 92nd Session of the IMO's Committee on Maritime Safety (MSC 92) May 2013

The WWNWS-SC reviewed the matters considered and decisions taken during MSC 92, referring to document WWNWS5/3/1/2. They highlighted the intention of the United States to provide the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) with the necessary information to enable it to verify that the Iridium mobile-satellite system meets the criteria of IMO Resolution A.1001(25) - Criteria for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

Iridium Satellite System Presentation

Iridium representatives presented a paper at WWNWS 5, document WWNWS5/3/5/1 which provided a high level overview detailing Iridium's current capabilities. In June 2013, at the 92nd meeting of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), the United States submitted a paper titled Recognition of the Iridium mobile-satellite system (MSC 92/9/2). This was the first step in the formal approval process to become a satellite service provider in the GMDSS. MSC 92 approved the recommendation, which sends the proposal to the IMO NCSR. The Chairman expressed concern that Iridium provided few specifics detailing how it might fulfil the requirements outlined in IMO Resolution A.1001(25) - Criteria for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the GMDSS. Iridium is the first satellite provider (Inmarsat excluded) to attempt to gain approval based on A.1001(25). The Sub-Committee discussed specific aspects of the broadcast of MSI via a low earth orbiting (LEO) satellite constellation.

Outcome of the 59th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 59) September 2013

The WWNWS-SC reviewed the matters considered, and decisions taken, during NAV59, referring to document WWNWS5/3/1/3. Of relevance, NAV59 reported on the development of policy and new symbols for AIS aids to navigation, an outcome of the AIS Aids to Navigation Correspondence Group, which NAV 58 re-established. The WWNWS-SC commented on the potential use of AIS to broadcast MSI, as discussed by the USCG at the 2013 annual meeting of the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM). Members commented that the WWNWS should maintain a watchful eye on the broadcast of MSI via AIS, so that the WWNWS is not compromised.

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

WWNWS 6 will take place in Wellington, New Zealand from 18 to 22 August 2014. This meeting is planned to take place simultaneously with the WMO Maritime Safety Services

Enhancement Workshop/METAREA Coordinators meeting over the same dates and in the same venue. This is the first time that meeting will be held concurrently and stands to be of significant benefit for both organizations. A joint agenda will be developed to make the most of the time available. All National MSI Coordinators are encouraged to attend the meetings of WNWNS to broaden their experience and interact with the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators.

Action requested

The IRCC 6 is invited to take note of the information provided in this report and to take any action it considers appropriate.

