
**EXTENSION OF THE WORLDWIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE TO
THE ARCTIC WATERS**

Submitted by the Chairman CPRNW

- 1. ACTION REQUIRED:** The Committee is requested to consider the proposal for the extension of the World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) to include the Arctic Waters.
- 2. BACKGROUND:** There is now growing evidence that the ice cover in the Arctic Ocean and northern seas is decreasing, both in mass and in aerial extent. Such a change in the Arctic environment logically inspires concepts for military and commercial maritime exploitation of the area, and motivates increased research in the ocean. Since increased use of the Arctic region is being realized by all elements of society - commercial, military and scientific - it is appropriate that the Arctic Ocean be as respected as the other temperate oceans and navigated with concern for the presence of maritime hazards.

When the boundaries for the NAVAREAs under the WWNWS were decided upon, Maritime Safety Information (MSI) broadcast facilities were not envisioned for the Arctic Region. Therefore, as the opening of the Northern Sea Route for international shipping increases, gaps and problems with MSI broadcasts will be encountered.

The northern limits for existing NAVAREA's under the WWNWS are:

At 67°N just north of the Bering Strait,
At 67°N across the Davis Strait between Greenland and Canada; and
At 71°N across the Norwegian and East Greenland Seas, from the Norwegian North Cape to the Greenland Coast.

- 3. COMMENTS:** In June 2000, at the fifth meeting of the IHO Commission on the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW), consideration was given to a request by the Russian Federation to extend the International SafetyNET Broadcast to cover the waters of the Northern Sea Route. The Committee discussed and supported this request, although no final proposal was implemented.

In May 2003, at the sixth meeting of CPRNW, the United Kingdom submitted a paper proposing that it may be time to consider whether the Arctic areas, or parts of those areas, should be absorbed within the WWNWS; or, if not, whether the broadcasting of MSI for these regions should be formally coordinated within the WWNWS. The CPRNW agreed and initial discussions were established between all principals involved.

In May 2005, at the IMO Maritime Safety Committee meeting, the Russian Federation submitted a paper, MSC 80/13/2, that proposed to define and adopt two new NAVAREAs for the Arctic seas along the northern coast of the Russian Federation, and suggested the need to define further areas to cover remaining sectors of the Arctic not currently included within the existing 16 NAVAREAs. The Russian Federation proposed two new NAVAREAs defined as follows:

Western (Area 17) – West limit: Meridian 32° 04'35" E
East limit Meridian 125° 00'00" E
South limits: coast line of the Russian Federation between meridians
32° 04'35" E and 125° 00'00" E, including the White Sea.

Western (Area 18) – West limit: Meridian 125° 00'00" E
East limit: Meridian 168° 58'37" W
South limits: coast line of the Russian Federation between
meridians 125° 00'00" E and 168° 58'37" W

Member States in attendance at MSC 80 discussed the issue with no final resolution. MSC instructed the Sub-Committee on Radio Communications and Search and Rescue to consider it under the existing agenda item "GMDSS, Operational and technical co-ordination provisions of maritime safety information (MSI) services, including review of the relevant documents" at its March 2006 meeting.

Procedurally, all recommendations for change to the WWNWS are reviewed by the IHO CPRNW. CPRNW is the representative body for the IHO on matters concerning the WWNWS and its membership includes the IMO, WMO and IMSO. The Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information and the IMO International SafetyNET Manual, two of the WWNWS guidance documents provide the procedures for amendments. Each manual clearly states, "the agreement of the IHO, IMSO, WMO and the active participation of other bodies should be sought, according to the nature of the proposed amendments."

4. **RECOMMENDATION(S):** In consideration of the above mentioned proposals, the IMO procedural guidance for amendments to the WWNWS and the need to ensure availability and coordination of MSI for the Arctic waters, it is appropriate that IHO CPRNW discuss and report to the IMO Sub-Committee on Radio Communications and Search and Rescue its findings and recommendations on the extension of the WWNWS for the Arctic waters.
5. **ACTION REQUESTED:** The Commission should review all relevant documents for the proposal of extending the WWNWS. This includes considering whether broadcasting of MSI for the Arctic waters should be formally coordinated within the WWNWS.

The Commission should consider the need for establishment of new Arctic NAVAREAs, and the appropriate boundaries and delimitations of those areas (Attachment 1). Discussions should also include Member States who will act as NAVAREA Coordinators or Sub Area Coordinators. *Attachment 1 is to be used as a guide to facilitate CPRNW discussions and should not to be considered as final or as an endorsement by the Commission, any members, or its Chairman.*

The IHO should report to Sub-Committee on Radio Communications and Search and Rescue its findings and recommendations for the extension of the WWNWS for the Arctic waters including, recommendations of the appropriate boundaries and delimitations of those areas and Member States who will act as NAVAREA Coordinators or Sub Area Coordinators.

Attachment 1

WWNWS NAVAREAs and Guide for Proposed Arctic NAVAREAs

This Attachment is to be used as a guide to facilitate IHO CPRNW discussions and should not to be considered as final or as an endorsement by the Commission, any members, or its Chairman.

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