

IHO World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service – Sub Committee (WWNWS-SC)

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING COURSE
SUMMARY REPORT**

Date of report: 02 December 2017

Course: MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING

Date: 05-07 September, 2017

Venue: Calders Hotel & Conference Center, Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa

Instructors: Mr. Bill VAN-DEN-BERGH (United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, UK), Mr. Alain ROUAULT (French Hydrographic Office, France), Mr. Christopher JANUS (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA), Mr. Peter DOHERTY (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA), and Mr. Christopher CONLAN (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA),

Instructional Support: Ashraf Khan (Telkom Maritime Services), Almar Schutte (MRCC Cape Town/Cape Town Radio)

Opening Address: Cdr Christoff Theunissen (Cdr South Africa Navy)

Administrative Support: Ms. Ruth FARRE (South Africa Navy)

Participants (20): Angola, Bangladesh, Comoros, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman(2), Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka(2), South Africa(2), Sudan, Thailand, (**Annex A**)

Introduction

On 05-07 September 2017, a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Training Course to benefit countries in the area of influence of the South African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) was held on behalf of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Capacity Building Committee (CBC) and the IHO's World-Wide Navigational Warning Service – Sub Committee (WWNWS-SC).

This was the 19th learning opportunity facilitated by the WWNWS-SC as a capacity building first phase initiative since the program began in 2007. The first phase is the most urgent and easiest to implement and consists of organizing the collection and circulation of nautical information necessary to provide real-time situation awareness of safety critical information. It also covers the supplementary requirements to maintain and update existing charts and publications to ensure the

safe navigation of shipping governed by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

The WWNWS is a coordinated global service for the promulgation of warnings regarding hazards to navigation, which might endanger international shipping. The syllabus included guidance on all the subject areas considered suitable for transmission as NAVAREA warnings as described in IMO Res. A.706(17).

South Africa (NAVAREA VII Coordinator) is responsible for the sea areas covered by the SAIHC and controls the broadcast of NAVAREA messages within this region, making full and effective use of national broadcast facilities in keeping with the provisions of SOLAS. The NAVAREA Coordinator has the responsibility to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within their area.

Objective

The objective of the course was to increase the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA VII Coordinator and, ultimately, to emphasize the importance of establishing expertise in the countries within this NAVAREA to fulfill the role of National Coordinators. To achieve this, the course provided practical instruction and guidance to participants who are involved with MSI and the drafting of Navigational Warnings, or with the issuance of MSI for the high seas. The aim of the course was to ensure that all attendees would:

- Endeavour to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within their coastal region.
- Assess all information in the light of knowledge for relevance to navigation in the coastal region.
- Draft navigational warnings in accordance with the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI.
- Pass MSI for further promulgation to the NAVAREA Coordinator using the quickest means possible.

Content

The Course content (**Annex B**) included all aspects of the WWNWS. The participants received instructional overviews, course documents, and digital media covering: the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, Maritime Safety Information, and the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. They were also familiarized with the major guidance documents; IMO Res A.705(17), IMO Res A.706(17), the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information, IHO Special Publication No.53 (S-53) and the IMO SafetyNET and NAVTEX manuals. Extended time was spent explaining the National Coordinators roles, responsibilities and requirements, including the need to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within the region. Particular attention was placed on the importance to immediately assess all information upon receipt and decide whether to inform the NAVAREA Coordinator as appropriate.

The course was presented over a period of 3 days, which included 2 days of practical exercises. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office graciously provided charts of South Africa and approaches for

use in the practical exercises to evaluate source data for validity and applicability as NAVAREA or Coastal Warnings. The participants worked in conjunction with the instructors on the second day and reviewed messages in a controlled and structured environment. On the third day, the participants were split into teams and assigned the task of independent watchkeepers and worked in a rehearsed real-time operations room scenario with multiple categories of messages being assigned. This allowed the instructors to see the progress each student made during this training effort and validated the course content and instruction as being both appropriate and effective.

Telkom Maritime Services, represented by Ashraf KHAN and MRCC Cape Town/Cape Town Radio, represented by Almar SCHUTTE provided an excellent overview of their respective operations. Telkom Maritime explained how they are the service provider for the National Department of Transport of South Africa. They went into their duties of what services they provide via MRCC Cape Town as required under the SOLAS agreement. The presentation gave a detailed overview of the history of the organization and how it works with the MRCC to comply with SOLAS mandates. The MRCC Cape Town/Cape Town Radio presentation discussed the large geographic footprint that the MRCC is responsible for and the different types of dissemination techniques that are used to broadcast information to mariners. Specific examples of each type of message were presented to the class. The two presentations were thought provoking and received well by the students.

Instruction

Mr. JANUS acted as course leader supported by Mr. VAN-DEN-BERGH, Mr. CONLAN, Mr. DOHERTY and Mr. ROUAULT who shared the presentation duties. Each instructor had varying degrees of experience, skill and knowledge with managing and staffing a NAVAREA operations room.

A high level of interaction between the instructors and the participants was encouraged and achieved, which added to a relaxed classroom atmosphere. Individual participation allowed for active engagement, which proved invaluable to the success of the course. All the participants were actively encouraged to discuss their national MSI concerns and relay their own stories of note from within their regions.

Having so many participants with varying levels of GMDSS knowledge added an extra dimension to the proceedings. This provided the opportunity for the instructors to offer practical advice and guidance on best practices in conjunction with explaining the basic elements of establishing National procedures for the promulgation of MSI. Each administration present was encouraged to appoint a National Point of Contact for GMDSS issues and to communicate and revise their national strategy and plans with the IMO, IHO and respective NAVAREA Coordinators.

At the end of the course, all of the participants were provided with digital media containing copies of all the presentations and practical exercises. It is now their responsibility to share their knowledge and it was stressed that they are expected to become the trainers for the personnel in their administrations who are responsible for gathering, analyzing, drafting and promulgating urgent navigational warnings for the coastal area of their country.

Participants / Language

Specific requests were made by the IHO CBC to the member states in its solicitation of participants to attend the course. The aim was to ensure that only those personnel charged with MSI responsibilities would attend the course and that it was not intended for policy or administrative personnel, and this was successfully achieved.

In alignment with the specific IMO requirements that NAVAREA and Coastal Warnings must be provided in English, it had been requested that attendees should have basic written and oral understanding of the English language. Most participants had an outstanding competency level in the English language. Three of the class participants were French speakers and struggled with the class presentations. Mr. ROUAULT provided constant individualized attention to the group as he translated the course material while answering their questions as he sat at their table for the entirety of the course.

It is disappointing to report that the participants from Jordan and Tanzania were, unfortunately, unable to attend. Nevertheless, the representation of 10 students from 9 countries provided excellent representation from SAIHC.

Facilities / Support

The instruction took place in a comfortable, very well-equipped conference room at the Calders Hotel and the presentation facilities were outstanding. Students had complimentary Wifi both in the conference room and in their personal room. The South African Navy along with Calders Hotel printed all the required documents and provided excellent support far exceeding expectations. Accommodation and breakfast and lunch for the students were at the Cadars Hotel & Conference Center. Students had to pay for their own dinner. For future courses, the IHO should strive to make similar arrangements where all meals, including the cost of dinner, and training occur at the same location. That setting provides, by far, the most conducive learning environment, facilitates working relationships, and, more importantly, makes it easy to form lasting friendships.

Acknowledgements

The CBC of the IHO financially supported the course for both the students and instructors. For the previous five courses, the IHO provided financial support for the instructors and this should continue. Instructor funding ultimately makes the course possible not to mention a success.

Conclusion

Once again it is very pleasing to report that this MSI training course maintained the high standards set by the previous models and that all the objectives were fully met. The analysis of the final practical exercises recorded the score of 79% of answers rated at Good or Very Good. This score is lower than previous courses and is not indicative of the course's success, as the survey indicates it was highly successful. However, as with all performance measures, there is benefit from capturing this data. The instructors realized that Practical Exercise #4, #5 and #14, on day three, each yielded four of nine incorrect responses. All practical exercises will be reviewed prior to the next offering and adjusted to maximize learning and the transfer of knowledge.

At the closing of the course the instructors reminded the students of their responsibility to go back to their organizations and use their increased awareness and knowledge of the WWNWS to improve, and in some cases establish, the flow of MSI to their respective NAVAREA Coordinator and, ultimately, fulfill the role of National Coordinator within their country.

The course feedback (**Annex C**) confirms the overall success of this mission. In closing, the WWNWS is extremely pleased with the results of this training effort and looks forward to continuing its support as the course is rotated to other IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

Next Planned Course

There are three classes that have been funded for 2018, but no dates have been selected. The courses will be held for the member states of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC), the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) and the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC).

Course photograph



ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE, FISH HOEK, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Instructors:

	Surname	First Name	Country	Org.	Rank/ Title	E-mail:	Telephone
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Participants:

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ANNEX B

SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE

MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE				
SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE – South Africa 5-7 September 2017				
Time	Session	05 September	06 September	07 September
0900-1000	First session	Welcome	National Coordinator Presentation, Guest Speaker or Field Trip	Practical exercise Day 2 review Message formatting
		Administration		Chart updating & liaison with charting HO
		Introduction of participants		
1000-1015		Coffee		
1015-1230	Second session	Introduction to GMDSS	National Coordinator Presentation and/or Field Trip;	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”
		Introduction to WWNWS	National Coordinator Requirements	
		Introduction to MSI	NAVAREA VII NAVTEX/SafetyNET Coverage	
			MSI Manual: How to format Navigation Warnings	
1230-1400		Lunch		
1400-1530	Third session	Introduction to SafetyNET System	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”
		Introduction to NAVTEX System		
1530-1545		Coffee		
1545-1700	Fourth session	WWNWS Guidance Documents	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Practical Exercise Review
				Lessons Learned
				Closing Remarks

ANNEX C

MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE – Fish Hoek, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA - STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Organized	19	1			20
Right length	8	12			20
The course was too basic	2	3	7	7	19
Presenters understandable	18	2			20
Instructors were prepared	19	1			20
Practical exercises were helpful	18	2			20
Breaks were the right length	10	10			20
I understand what WNWNS is	13	7			20
I understand my role & responsibility	12	8			20
I feel comfortable sending MSI	13	7			20
I feel this class was well worth my time	16	4			20
Guest speaker was relevant	10	8	1	1	20

Comments

1. This course is very useful for our organization.
2. The course was conducted in a befitting manner and is highly knowledgeable and effective.
3. This leaves me with added value and much to share with my colleagues.
4. Well organized course and well presented.
5. Very relevant and the experience from instructors benefitted the learning.
6. Extend the length of the course to make more time for practical nav warning practice.