

WWNWS 10 – IHO INTRODUCTION

I would like first of all, on behalf of the Organization and the Secretariat, to welcome you all to 2nd joint meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization's World-Wide Navigation Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) and the World Meteorological Organization's World-Wide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service Committee (WWMIWS-C) here in Monaco, as well as the 10th meeting of the WWNWS-SC and the first meeting of the WWMIWS-C. It is good to see such a strong turnout, 67 participants with 19 of 22 NAVAREAs and Sub-areas and 6 national coordinators and 21 of 23 METAREAs and Sub-areas as well our colleagues from partner organizations and industry; I thank the many of you who have made the long journey here.

The Organization has completed nearly two years under the revised convention, it is 18 months since the first Assembly and the first session of the IHO Council met in October last year in Monaco. Under guidance of the Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas, and the Chairmanship of Rear-Admiral Shep Smith, the Council has set its mark firmly on the management of the Organization. Pleasingly the Council has not become an additional bureaucratic hurdle blocking progress; it has, however, very firmly gripped the task of strategic planning and prioritization, starting with a review of the strategic plan of the Organization by the Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG) under the leadership of France. The pragmatic and realistic view taken by members of Council bodes well for the future of the Organization. HSSC has commenced the Assembly task of reviewing IHO Resolution 2/2007, taking into account a number of comments and inputs, it is anticipated a draft revision will be submitted to the second session of the Council, which is programmed to be held in London in October.

The reputation of the WWNWS-SC within the IHO remains as strong as ever and it is held up within the IRCC as an example to others at what can and should be being achieved with commitment and collective engagement. This high regard for tight focus on operational aspects of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) provision, action and output is also acknowledged at the International Maritime Organization, particularly by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) and within the Maritime Safety Division of the IMO Secretariat; the skilful leadership of your Chair, Peter Doherty, and the individual and collective efforts and contribution in progressing the various operational issues under consideration, is fully recognized by the trust and respect with which documents and submissions are received by the Member States of the IMO.

Equally important has been the continuous and excellent cooperation with partner organizations beyond the IMO, in particular the close working relationships with the WMO, IMSO and Inmarsat have all contributed to the WWNWS-SC goal of supporting and improving safety at sea. As a group never forget the reason for your existence is the provision of a vital service to the maritime community, regardless of politics or cost, and whose reliance on the timely receipt and accuracy of the Maritime Safety Information broadcast by each of you, should be at the forefront of all that you do.

This Sub-Committee has always risen above regional and local political issues and remained focus on ensuring the mariner at sea receives the service he, and increasingly and pleasingly she, needs and requires to safely conduct their activities in a fully informed manner. I would remind you all, political issues are for other fora not this Sub-Committee; the Secretary-General is adamant this Sub-Committee will not become politicized and he has charged me to assist your chair in carrying out this commitment.

A significant reason for the annual completion of the Self-Assessment is the process of self-review and the drive for continuous improvement; do not sit back and believe the job is done, completing the Self-Assessment by rote and cut'n'paste.

Looking ahead indicates the next phase of development is already underway. There are a number of significant projects and initiatives in various stages of progress, all will be discussed in detail during the meeting and all will have a significant impact on your daily work in the future. Some notable highlights:

- the implementation of the Modernization Plan of the GMDSS, amendments to SOLAS and the consequential instruments are underway with wide ranging discussions at all levels within the IMO structure. The breadth and spread of this work and its impact will be significant, it is vital that WWNWS-SC and WWMIWS-C as well as the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators remain fully involved.
- e-Navigation continues to be one of the most important projects of the IMO, in which the IHO as well as IALA, have been fully engaged. The outcomes of MSC99 and NCSR5 will be presented during this meeting. The on-going work of the IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) with its second meeting in October is significant and the documenting of Maritime Services is a major step forward.
- the issue of additional overlays in ECDIS and the S-100 based Product Specifications (S-124, S-411 and S-412) are developments upon which much effort has been expended and in which a number of you have become involved, we will hear how these developments are progressing with a presentations covering these topics later in the week. We will also benefit from the availability of Tony Pharaoh (the Secretariat lead on S-110) and Jeff Wootton, the S-100 registry manager, both of whom will participate in the relevant S-100 discussions.
- the recognition of the Iridium satellite system at MSC99 as a mobile satellite service provider, as well as applications by the BeiDou Message Service System and the regional Thuraya mobile satellite system will present numerous challenges and opportunities. IMSO have been made responsible by the MSC for the Iridium operational implementation phase and we will hear more of their plan and programme. It is vital the WWNWS-SC, WWMIWS-C and the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators remain fully engaged with these developments so

that your concerns and requirements can be considered and addressed. One of which is interoperability, which will be explored later in the week.

- All these initiatives and developments mean there will be numerous and significant amendments to all documentation from the resolutions downwards.
- Capacity Building remains a key focus of the IHO Work Programme, in particular the objective of ensuring all coastal States are at least at Phase One level and meeting their minimum SOLAS obligations; NAVAREA Coordinators have a significant part to play with their insight and knowledge of the coastal States within their NAVAREAs.

There is much work to be done, I am sure under the guidance and direction of your most able and experienced chairs, you will make significant progress on these topics.

To you Mr Chairman and to all participants I wish an enjoyable stay in Monaco and a successful and fruitful meeting.