

Outcomes of COMSAR 17

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the outcomes of COMSAR 17, which are relevant to WWNWS-SC

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2.

Related documents: COMSAR 17/17 dated 13 February 2013

1. COMSAR 17 was held at IMO Headquarters in London 21 – 25 January 2013. The following items are of relevance to WWNWS-SC:

- a) COMSAR 17/3/3 submitted by the IHO reported on the outcome of the 4th meeting of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee which was held at the offices of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo, from 24 – 28 September 2012. The report was noted.
- b) COMSAR 17/3 submitted by the IHO detailed the proposed draft amendments to IMO Resolutions A.705(17) on the Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information and A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. The Sub-Committee endorsed the proposed amendments and submitted them to the MSC for approval at its 92nd meeting.
- c) COMSAR 17/3/1 submitted by IHO detailed the proposed amendments to Annex 7 of MSC.1/Circ.1382/Rev.1 containing the Questionnaire on Shore-based Facilities for the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS). The proposed amendments were endorsed and submitted them to the MSC for approval at its 92nd meeting.
- d) COMSAR 17/3/2 submitted by the Chairman of IMO's NAVTEX Coordinating Panel (Mr Guy Beale – UK and NAVAREA 1 Co-ordinator) reported on the current issues being addressed by the Panel. The report was noted.
- e) COMSAR 17 considered various proposals and issues relating to the modernization of the GMDSS and decided to establish a Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG was directed to provide comment and advice on the proposed overarching principles, to consider how existing radiocommunications systems should be taken into account, to prepare an initial draft document on the outcome of the high-level review of the GMDSS and to prepare terms of reference for the Correspondence Group on the Review of the GMDSS, which is to report to the next meeting.

f) COMSAR also continued its work on e-Navigation and continued its work on preparing a final list of potential solutions relevant to radiocommunications. The Sub-Committee noted that a trial conducted in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore had successfully demonstrated the use of the IHO S-100 standard for the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

2. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.