

Extract from MSC89/25

Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS

24.6 The Committee considered document MSC 89/24/2 (IHO), reporting on the outcome of a workshop organized by IHO in February 2011 to discuss the issues raised during MSC 88 regarding "Operating anomalies in ECDIS" and requesting the Committee to: note the outcome of the ECDIS stakeholders' workshop; continue to encourage flag States to collect and disseminate relevant information on ECDIS anomalies in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1391; and inviting Member Governments to consider proposing an unplanned output in the biennial agenda of the NAV Sub-Committee, which would clarify the policy on working-life validity of software driven electronic navigation equipment.

24.7 The Committee also considered document MSC 89/24/3 (Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, ICS and IFSMA), supplementing the report on the outcome of a workshop organized by the IHO to discuss the issues raised during MSC 88 regarding "Operating anomalies in Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)", as reported in document MSC 89/24/2, and proposing further steps which ought to be taken. In addition, the Committee had been requested to: consider how maximum advantage could be gained from feedback from seafarers; and, if so, how the IMO could adopt a role to coordinate the necessary programme of activities to address the issues of potential anomalies in type-approved ECDIS, using official ENCs, and establish processes, capabilities and modalities to achieve this.

24.8 The delegations who spoke on the issue fully supported the concerns outlined in documents MSC 89/24/2 and MSC 89/24/3 and were of the view that it was an important matter of relevance and concern for the COMSAR, NAV and STW Sub-Committees. They also expressed the view that this issue needed to be considered carefully, but on an urgent basis, and therefore, as a first step, the matter should be referred to NAV 57 for initial detailed consideration.

24.9 Consequently, the Committee decided to refer the matter to NAV 57 for detailed consideration under its agenda item on "Any Other Business" and instructed NAV 57 to advise MSC 90 on the way forward.