

RSAHC 6-13 WWNWS-SC Brief

1. The IMO Maritime Safety Committee approved the revisions to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual (IHO publication S-53). The MSC also agreed that the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) would undertake the technical assessment and system evaluation of the Iridium mobile satellite system as part of the process for it to be recognised as a mobile-satellite service provider of the GMDSS.
2. The sixth meeting of the WWNWS Sub-Committee (WWNWS 6) was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 18 to 22 August 2014 under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Doherty (USA). The meeting was attended by 27 delegates from 14 IHO Member States, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the IMO NAVTEX Panel, the IMO SafetyNET Panel, Inmarsat and Iridium. The delegates included representatives of 11 NAVAREA Coordinators, one Sub-area Coordinator and four National Coordinators. The WMO held its 2nd Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop concurrently.
3. WWNWS-SC and the WMO Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop met in joint session for one and a half days during the meeting period. This allowed NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators to discuss topics of mutual interest and to receive briefings and background presentations on the IHO, WMO and IMO structures. The joint session received progress reports on the development of the S-124 - Navigational warnings, S-411 - Sea ice and S-412 - Met-ocean forecasts Product Specifications, all of which are relevant to worldwide navigational warning services. The IMO Secretariat encouraged closer cooperation and interaction between the IMO, IHO and WMO.
4. The WWNWS Sub-Committee received a briefing from the Secretariat of the IMO on the GMDSS modernization and the GMDSS Master Plan. A revised process for updating Annexes 7 & 8 of the Master Plan was explained. Noting that the responsibility for inserting new data would be passed directly to the IMO Member States, it was confirmed that a validation check would be undertaken by the IMO Secretariat. The representative of the IMO Secretariat urged direct engagement by all Area Coordinators with the GMDSS modernization Correspondence Group (CG).
5. The year-long WWNWS customer survey questionnaire results were reviewed and various issues identified for individual NAVAREAs to address. Inmarsat gave a general brief on issues identified for the SafetyNET service relevant to both NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators. It was noted that many of the comments and problems submitted by users were identified as system and equipment related and reflected a lack of understanding on the part of the users. The IMO Secretariat was asked to consider if this situation could be brought to the attention of the appropriate IMO bodies to explore ways to improve GMDSS training.
6. The meeting received updated information on the delivery of MSI training courses and the need for the NAVAREA Coordinators to work closely with the Regional Capacity Building (CB) Coordinators to help developing nations to reach the CB Phase 1 level (collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to maintain existing charts and publications up to date) of the IHO CB Strategy.
7. The seventh meeting of the WWNWS-SC (WWNWS 7) will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 24 to 28 August 2015. All NAVAREA Coordinators and National MSI

Coordinators are encouraged to attend the meetings of the WWNWS-SC to broaden their experience and interact with each other.

8. The meeting is requested to:

- a. Note this report;
- b. Review national organizations and procedures for the issuing of MSI to the NAVAREA IX region coordinator and the appropriate charting.
- c. Take any other action deemed appropriate.