



106TH SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

London, UK, 02 to 11 November

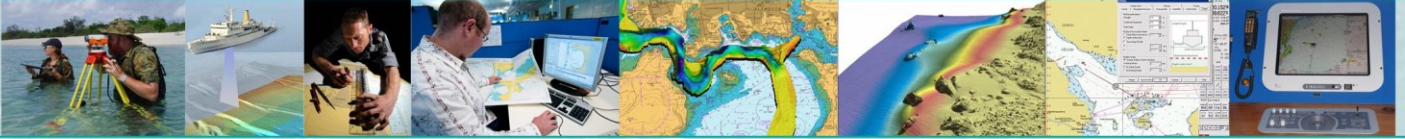
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 1.1.8.4	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including Attendance of MSC meeting

The 106th session of the Maritime Safety Committee was held from 2 to 11 November 2022, chaired by Mrs Mayte Medina (United States). The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr Theofilos Mozas (Greece), was also present. The session was attended by Members and Associate Members; representatives from the United Nations Programmes, specialized agencies and other entities; observers from intergovernmental organizations with agreements of cooperation; and observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status. The IHO was represented by Director Abri Kampfer.

The Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim welcomed participants and delivered his opening address, noting that the global maritime community remains seriously concerned about the safety and welfare of seafarers, the safety of ships and the impact on shipping operations in the wake of the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. He mentioned that despite the challenges the establishment of the Humanitarian Maritime Corridor and the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July has shown what can be achieved with the cooperation of all involved parties under the support and leadership of the United Nations. He paid a visit to the port of Odessa in late August to see first-hand how ship safety and port management are being implemented, and the critical role played by seafarers. He strongly urged all Member States to cooperate to ensure that the safety of shipping and seafarers in this vital initiative is not compromised.

Regarding maritime security, he made mention of the significant ongoing expansion of the range of technical assistance offered by the IMO Secretariat to Member States, including the new courses on the Whole of Government Approach, Passenger and Baggage Screening and Maritime Domain Awareness, with more new courses to follow. He urged all Member States to consider donating to the International Maritime Security Trust Fund to support this important work. He furthermore mentioned that global trends relating to piracy and armed robbery against ships has generally continued to fall, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea. He expressed his confidence that, with the usual customary IMO spirit of cooperation and under the capable leadership of the Chair, supported by the Vice-Chair, all will engage in constructive discussions and reach agreement on the matters awaiting the session. Finally he invited all to the IMO Award Ceremony, for a special tribute to former Secretary-General William O'Neil and presentation of the International Maritime Prize 2021 and the IMO Award for exceptional bravery at sea.

The Committee adopted the agenda and agreed to be guided in its work, in general, with consideration of all agenda items in total or in part by correspondence together with the comments received on those proposals as well as any resulting modifications to the proposed actions. The Committee established three Work Groups (Development of a goal-

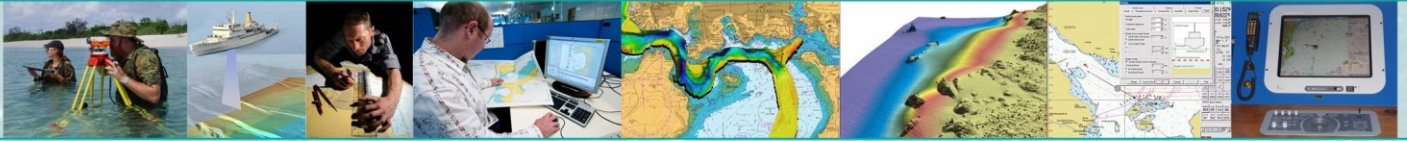


based instrument for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), Draft MSC Resolution on Impacts of Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea on Shipping and Working Group on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) Matters and two drafting groups (Amendments to the Committee's method of work and Amendments to Mandatory Instruments)

With respect to the Joint MSC-LEG-FAL Working Group on MASS (MASS-JWG), the Committee recalled that its first meeting was (MASS-JWG 1) from 7 to 9 September 2022. Following the successful IMO Seminar on Development of a Regulatory Framework for MASS, which had taken place on 5 and 6 September 2022, MASS-JWG had agreed to organize another seminar with a focus on legal issues, including UNCLOS, expected to take place back to back with the next MASS-JWG meeting. Having considered the draft work plan for MASS-JWG, together with the request of the group to convene two sessions in 2023, the Committee noted the concerns of some delegations about the timeline for achieving the goals of MASS-JWG if it had to await consideration of its reports by all three Committees before it could resume its work. Having taken the aforementioned concerns into account, the Committee endorsed the work plan of MASS-JWG and, subject to concurrent approval by LEG 110 and FAL 47, agreed to the holding of a hybrid five-day meeting of MASS-JWG from 17 to 21 April 2023, subject to endorsement by C 128 and that MASS-JWG could meet before all three Committees had considered its report(s), bearing in mind that the meeting dates of the three Committees, which advanced their work on MASS at different speeds, would have an impact on the work of the Group and the scheduling of its meetings; and to authorize MASS-JWG to meet twice in each calendar year until decided otherwise by the three Committees, subject to endorsement by C 129 (July 2023).

The Committee noted that the MASS Working Group had encountered difficulties in its work for developing functional requirements because of the lack of concept of what constituted a MASS, i.e. the question of when a ship would be considered a MASS and whether that relates only to an uncrewed ship (fully autonomous or remotely controlled) or whether this would include ships with some (reduced) crew on board; and had agreed that the matter needed clarification in order for functional requirements to be developed in a consistent manner. Having recognized the large amount of work required for the further development of the MASS Code and drawing from the experience in splitting the work up among participating Member States as part of the regulatory scoping exercise, the Committee noted that some Member States and international organizations had communicated their interest in assisting in developing the goals and functional requirements for various sections of the draft MASS Code. In this regard, the Committee requested further volunteers interested in co-developing sections of the draft MASS Code to make their interest known to the Coordinator of the intersessional MASS Correspondence Group. Taking into account the progress made by the Group at this session, the Committee approved the *Revised road map for developing a goal-based Code for MASS*. Following the further development of the draft MASS Code by the Group, and in order to avoid any duplication of work, the Committee agreed to revised terms of reference for the MASS Correspondence Group established at MSC 105 under the coordination of the Marshall Islands.

The Committee approved, in general, the report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue. Of particular interest was the discussions and outcomes regarding BeiDou Message Service System (BDMSS), approval of MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2 on ECDIS – Guidance for good practice and adoption of



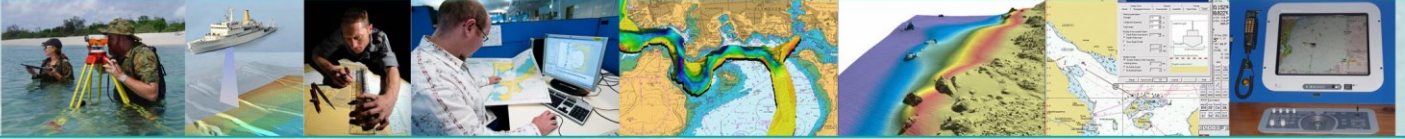
resolution MSC 530(106) on Performance standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS).

The Committee recalled that MSC 99 had considered an application by China for the recognition of the BeiDou Message Service System (BDMSS) for use in the GMDSS (MSC 99/12/1) and referred it to the NCSR Sub-Committee for evaluation, also authorizing the Sub-Committee to invite IMSO to conduct the technical and operational assessment, as appropriate. After consideration, the Committee agreed that China Transport Telecommunication Information Group Co. Ltd. (CTTIC), through BDMSS, had satisfied the criteria established to receive recognition as a mobile satellite communication service provider in the GMDSS and recognized the maritime mobile satellite services provided by CTTIC through BDMSS for use in the GMDSS. The committee adopted a resolution on *Statement of recognition of the maritime mobile satellite services provided by CTTIC through BDMSS*. The Committee further noted the commitment of the delegation of China and CTTIC to address any outstanding implementation issues, including those listed in NCSR 9/WP.5, annex 2, appendix 2, before the commencement of services. IMSO was invited to monitor the implementation and report to the Committee when the Public Services Agreement with CTTIC had been concluded and the Letter of Compliance had been issued. It was agreed that any future expansion of the coverage area of BDMSS would require a new submission for consideration by the Committee, based on the applicable requirements.

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2 on ECDIS – Guidance for good practice. 7 The Committee considered the draft MSC resolution on Performance standards for

Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) presenting, inter alia, a phased introduction of new IHO data product specifications (i.e. S-98, S-100 and S-101) for ECDIS, together with two documents by IACS, proposing consideration of consequential amendments to SOLAS regulation V/19.2.1 regarding the use of Electronic Nautical Publications (ENP) through ECDIS, which was incorporated as an ECDIS function in the draft MSC resolution, proposing modifications to the draft MSC resolution in order to clarify the application statement, in particular, the use of the expression "installed on or after [date]"; and a document by China commenting on the draft MSC resolution and proposing consideration of a number of actions to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed implementation dates according to the development of S-100 based data product specifications and IEC standards; develop a mechanism for further revisions to ECDIS – Guidance for good practice (MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2) to address onboard ECDIS updates; and review and consider human element issues, including training requirements and possible amendments to the STCW Code or MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2.

During the consideration the majority of the delegations that took the floor indicated that it would be premature to consider amendments to SOLAS regarding the use of ENP through ECDIS at this stage. Views were also expressed that a formal proposal for a new output would be necessary to give appropriate consideration to the matter. The proposed modifications to the cover page of the draft MSC resolution were supported in general. In connection with document submitted by China, the delegation of China advised that, following consultations with IHO after the submission of the document, China had agreed on the implementation dates set out in the draft MSC resolution noting that IHO would continue to monitor the implementation and provide regular updates to the NCSR Sub-Committee.



Subsequently, the observer from IHO advised that the implementation dates proposed in the draft MSC resolution had been carefully considered with relevant stakeholders and were part of an implementation roadmap agreed by IHO members. The majority of the delegations that took the floor supported the draft MSC resolution and the proposed implementation dates to give effect to the new IHO product specifications. A view was expressed, however, that human element aspects had not been appropriately considered and that an adequate transition period should be further assessed. Following consideration, the Committee agreed to the modifications proposed by IACS to clarify the application statement and adopted resolution MSC 530(106) on Performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS). In doing so, the Committee invited IHO to keep IMO informed on the process development of the IHO S-100 framework standard.

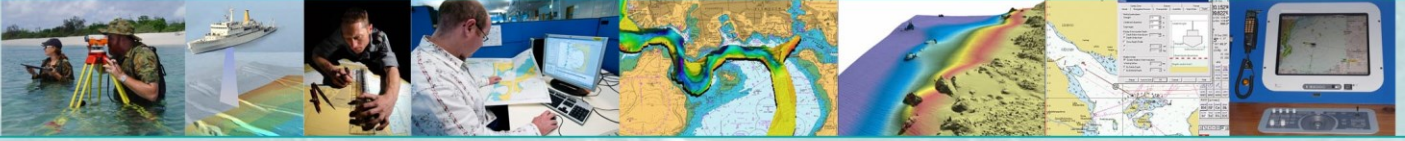
The Committee established the Drafting Group on amendments to the Committee's method of work and instructed it, taking into account the decisions made in plenary and to prepare amendments to the relevant text passages of the Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies. Having considered the report of the Drafting Group, the Committee approved it in general and approved the inclusion of a new sub-section on "Preparation of the Committees' or subsidiary bodies reports".

Following discussion on decision making by correspondence, the Committee agreed to limit the type of documents to be considered by correspondence to documents requiring no other action than to be noted and documents deferred from previous sessions where the subject matter had been overtaken by events; and that any proposal dealt with by correspondence should be subject to approval and endorsement in plenary by the relevant body.

The Committee agreed to include Development of amendments to SOLAS chapters IV and V and performance standards and guidelines to introduce VHF Data Exchange System (VDES), Development of performance standards for a digital navigational data system (NAVDAT), Consideration of descriptions of Maritime Services in the context of e-navigation and Development of generic performance standards for shipborne satellite navigation system receiver equipment from the post-biennial agenda in the biennial agenda of the NCSR Sub-Committee for 2022-2023 and the provisional agenda for NCSR 10.

The Committee also recalled that MSC 105 had agreed to include in the post-biennial agenda an output on "Amendments to the revised ECDIS performance standards (resolution MSC.232(82)) to facilitate a standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans", with one session needed to complete the item, and had invited NCSR 9, time permitting, to consider the scope of the output and report back to the Committee Having agreed with the advice by NCSR 9 that the scope of this output should be limited to amendments necessary to facilitate a standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans and that the work should be based on the ECDIS Performance standards adopted at this session, the Committee renamed it as "Amendments to ECDIS Performance standards to facilitate a standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans" and included it in the 2022-2023 biennial agenda of the Sub-Committee.

Having noted the close proximity of NCSR 10 and MSC 107, the Committee authorized NCSR 10 to submit, as urgent matters, the biennial status report for the 2022-2023 biennium, the proposed biennial agenda for the 2024-2025 biennium and the provisional agenda for



NCSR 11 for approval to MSC 107, along with any other urgent matters requiring approval by that session of the Committee. Following consideration of a proposal by the observer from WMO, the Committee authorized NCSR 10 also to submit, as an urgent matter, the Iridium SafetyCast service manual, updating the interim version (MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1), for approval by MSC 107.

The Committee agreed that, based on the decisions taken under various agenda items, working and drafting groups on MASS, Fuel oil safety, GBS and amendments to mandatory instruments may be established at MSC 107. It was noted that MSC 107 had been tentatively scheduled to take place from 31 May to 9 June 2023, and that MSC 108 had been scheduled to take place in spring 2024. The Committee unanimously re-elected Mrs. Mayte Medina (United States) as Chair and Mr. Theofilos Mozas (Greece) as Vice-Chair, both for 2023.



MSC 106 in session