

104TH SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE, Held remotely from Monday, 4 October, to Friday, 8 October

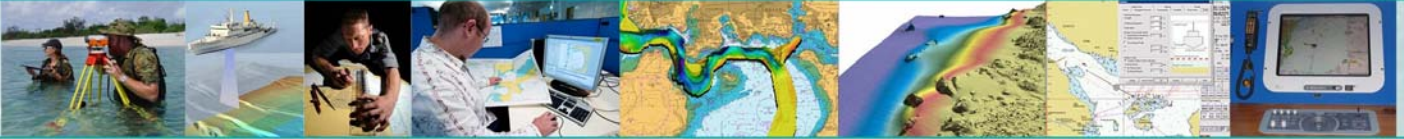
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 1.1.8.4	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including Attendance of MSC meeting

The 104th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee was held remotely from 4 to 8 October 2021, 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 delegates representing 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 and Mr Christopher Janus, the Chair of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC). Representatives of Hydrographic Offices also attended the meeting as members of their national delegations.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim, emphasized that this year's World Maritime theme is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future", to highlight the professionalism, dedication, and personal sacrifice of seafarers throughout the pandemic that have kept global supply chains moving. He stressed the expectation about significant decisions regarding amendments to mandatory instruments, goal-based new ship construction standards and the reports of several sub-committees with the confidence that the customary IMO spirit of cooperation will prevail.

The Committee adopted the agenda and agreed to be guided in its work, in general, with consideration of six 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. In this regard, the Committee noted that the intention of considering the aforementioned selected agenda items by correspondence was to address the backlog that had been accumulating over the last two sessions and that the proposed actions only concerned documents submitted to MSC 102 and MSC 103 which the Committee, owing to lack of time, had not been able to consider; and that any submissions made under those agenda items to MSC 104 would be considered separately, under the relevant agenda items.

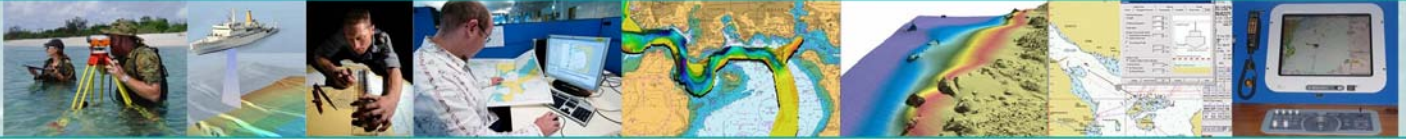
During the discussion on Cyber risk management for ships and ports, the Committee recalled that, when approving the *Guidelines on maritime cyber risk management* (MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3) in 2017, it underlined that they were complementary to the ISM and ISPS Codes, noting that the Guidelines included functional elements that supported effective cyber risk management and provided references to further detailed guidance, including the industry guidelines on cyber security on board ships. Noting the first edition of the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) *Cybersecurity Guidelines for Ports and Port Facilities*, the Committee requested the Secretariat to update the industry guidance to recognize the helpfulness of the



IAPH Guidelines and promote their availability and it further noted with appreciation recent French initiatives aimed at addressing cybersecurity issues in the maritime sector.

The Committee approved, in general, the report of the 8th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8/14/1 and MSC 104/12) and took the following actions relevant for activities under the IHO program of work:

- Recognition of the Japanese QZSS as a component of the Worldwide Radionavigation System. Having noted the general support for the recognition of QZSS, the Committee approved the Circular on *Recognition of the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)*, as a component of the Worldwide Radionavigation System.
- Draft amendments to SOLAS 1974 and related instruments concerning the modernization of the GMDSS. The Committee considered draft amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and related instruments, prepared by the Sub-Committee, concerning the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Subsequently, the Committee approved relevant draft amendments to SOLAS chapters II-1, III, IV and V, and the appendix (Certificates); the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes. In connection with the approval of the above draft amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, the Committee also approved associated draft MSC resolutions. The Committee endorsed the action taken by the Sub-Committee in approving COMSAR.1/Circ.37/Rev.1 on Guidance on minimum communication needs of maritime rescue coordination centres (MRCCs) and COMSAR.1/Circ.50/Rev.4 on Distress priority communications for RCCs from shore-to-ship via Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) satellite service providers.
- EPIRB-related guidelines. The Committee considered revisions to existing guidelines concerning float-free EPIRBs, prepared by the Sub-Committee, and approved MSC Circulars on *Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs)* and on *Guidelines on annual testing of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs)*.
- VHF radiocommunication equipment. The Committee considered a revision to existing guidance concerning VHF radiocommunication equipment, prepared by the Sub-Committee, and approved MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.3 on *Guidance on the validity of VHF radiocommunication equipment installed and used on ships*.
- Revision of the Interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual. The Committee noted that NCSR 8, having considered a proposal by IHO and WMO to amend the *Interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual* (MSC.1/Circ.1613), had invited the submitters to review the proposed draft revision of the Interim Manual, taking into account the comments and views expressed at NCSR 8, and take all necessary steps to submit the revised manual to MSC 104. In this regard, the Committee considered document MSC 104/12/1 (IHO and WMO) providing revised proposed amendments to the *Interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual*, and consequently agreed to the amendments presented in the document, except for the proposed amendments to the definition of "Sea Area A3", having noted that this definition should be amended once



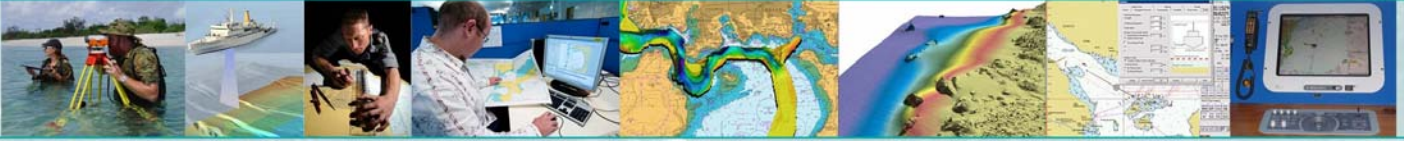
the draft amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention approved earlier had entered into force. Subsequently, the Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1 on *Interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual* and agreed that the revised manual should become effective on 1 January 2022; and that, for its first edition, the manual should follow the amendment procedure agreed for all MSI-related documentation.

A total of 28 submissions were submitted to MSC104 for new outputs and it was decided that due to the limited time available that only submissions relevant to Remote Survey pertaining to IMO instruments for vessels in international shipping and Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) would be considered. The remaining proposals for new outputs submitted to MSC104 were postponed for consideration at MSC 105. In order to manage the huge number of new output proposals submitted, the Committee also agreed not to accept any submissions containing proposals for new outputs for consideration at MSC 105, with the exception of proposals requiring immediate attention as a consequence of the pandemic; and that proposals for new outputs should only be submitted to MSC 106.

The Committee recalled that MSC 103 had approved the outcome of the regulatory scoping exercise (RSE) for the use of MASS, disseminated by means of MSC.1/Circ.1638, and had invited Member States and international organizations to submit output proposals on the best way forward to address MASS in the IMO regulatory framework to MSC 104, taking into account the outcome of the RSE. Several proposals were submitted for new outputs related to MASS. After discussion the Committee decided to request the Chair to prepare, together with the Secretariat and in consultation with the submitters of the proposals and commenting documents and the former Chair of the MASS Working Group, a road map, including scope, steps and timelines, as well as the coordination of work with other IMO bodies, taking into account the documents submitted and comments made at MSC 104 and the outcome of the RSE (MSC.1/Circ.1638), for detailed consideration at MSC 105. The submission should be available well in time for the next session to enable comments.

Furthermore to include in the biennial agenda of the Committee for 2022-2023 and the provisional agenda for MSC 105 a new output on "Development of a goal-based instrument for maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS)", with a target completion year of 2025. There was agreement that the first step in this new output would be the finalization of a road map to have a common understanding of the following steps; and, time allowing, the Committee could also embark on the development of instruments already at MSC 105. The ultimate goal would be the preparation of a mandatory instrument to address MASS operations. A Working Group on MASS will be re-established at MSC 105 to commence the work on the new output, including finalization of the aforementioned road map.

Having agreed to the recommendation by NCSR 8 on the proposed changes to six outputs, the Committee approved the biennial agenda of the NCSR Sub-Committee and the provisional agenda for NCSR 9. Most notable for the IHO was that The Revision of ECDIS Guidance for good practice (MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1) and amendments to ECDIS performance standards (resolution MSC.232(82)) will be discussed under Agenda Item 16 of NCSR 9 to be held in June 2022.

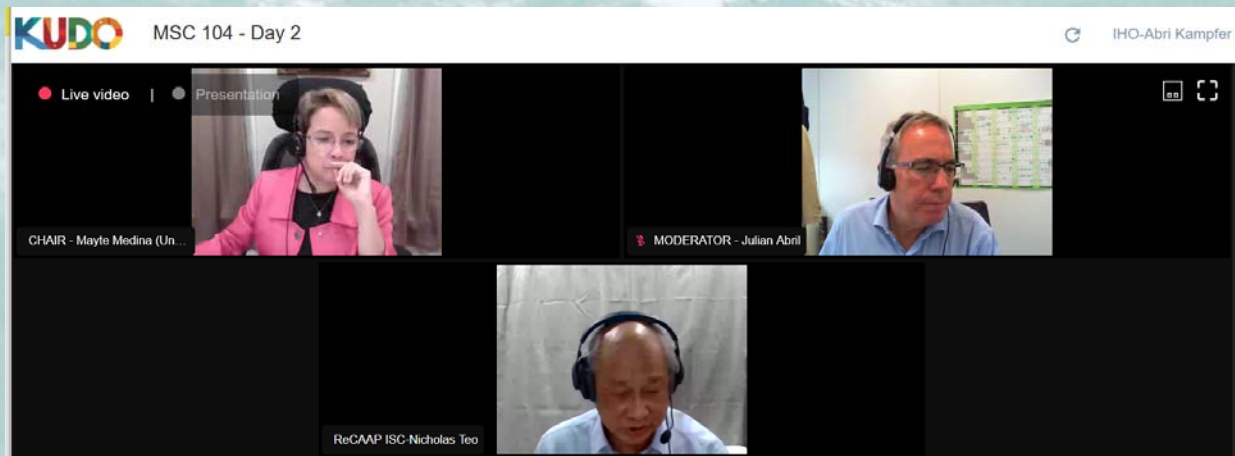


The Committee agreed that, based on the decisions taken under various agenda items, working and drafting groups on the following subjects could be established at MSC 105:

- development of a goal-based instrument for MASS;
- cost implications for MSI and SAR information providers; and
- amendments to mandatory instruments.

The Committee noted that MSC 105 had been tentatively scheduled to take place from 20 to 29 April 2022 and MSC 106 from 31 October to 4 November 2022 and that it would be informed, well in time for the meetings, of their nature, i.e. physical, remote or hybrid, depending on developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee unanimously re-elected Ms Mayte Medina (United States) as Chair and Mr Theofilos Mozas (Greece) as Vice-Chair, both for 2022.



MSC 104 in session