



## XIII TRANS-REGIONAL SEAPOWER SYMPOSIUM

Venice, Italy 5 - 7 October

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022

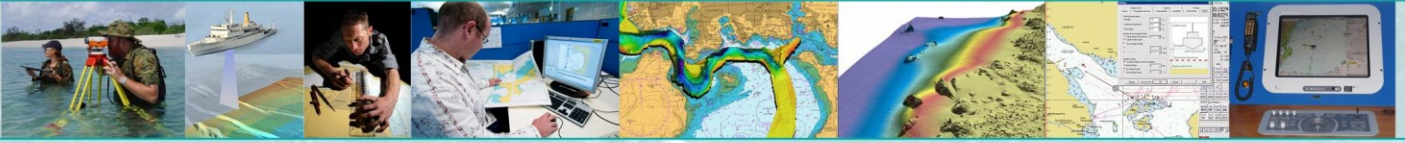
Task 1.1.15	Maintain relationships with other international and observer organizations when their agendas have relevance to the programme of the IHO
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The XIII edition of the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (XIII T-RSS), organized by the Italian Navy, was held in Venice, Italy from 5 to 7 October 2022, in "Ex-Squadratori" hall within the historical Arsenal of Venice. The Italian Navy Ships Amerigo Vespucci and San Marco, both moored alongside Canale della Giudecca in front of the historical Arsenal of Venice, hosted bilateral and thematic meetings. Delegates from 60 Navies and 100 Organizations attended the symposium in person. A streaming session of the entire Symposium was also provided by the Italian Navy. Director Luigi Sinapi represented the IHO with the objective to present the tasks and mission of the IHO and the role of Hydrography today, highlighting the main challenges the IHO is facing this particular decade entirely dedicated to the Ocean and its sustainable development.



*XIII Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium – Arsenal of Venice and ITN Amerigo Vespucci*

The XIII T-RSS is a worldwide-awaited, open and inclusive forum where dialogue, discussion and sharing of perspectives link different worlds. Navies, industries, public institutions, academia and international organizations were engaged in across-the-board debates involving the diverse community of players of the national and international maritime cluster. The 13<sup>th</sup> edition main theme, "A blue cluster approach in the ocean decade", stems from a shared belief of the undisputed central role played by the maritime domain in the global



dynamics of security and economic sustainable growth. In fact, in a systemic, international and multi-domain perspective, it is envisaged to identify, develop and share possible solutions to issues of common interest through an interdisciplinary governmental and policymakers' approach to achieve proper action focus and full effectiveness in favour of the international maritime community.

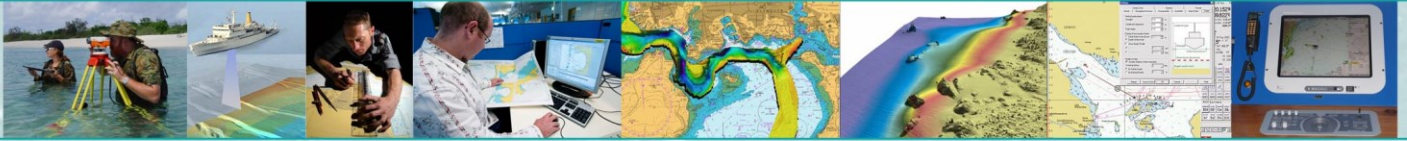


*XIII T-RSS opening ceremony*

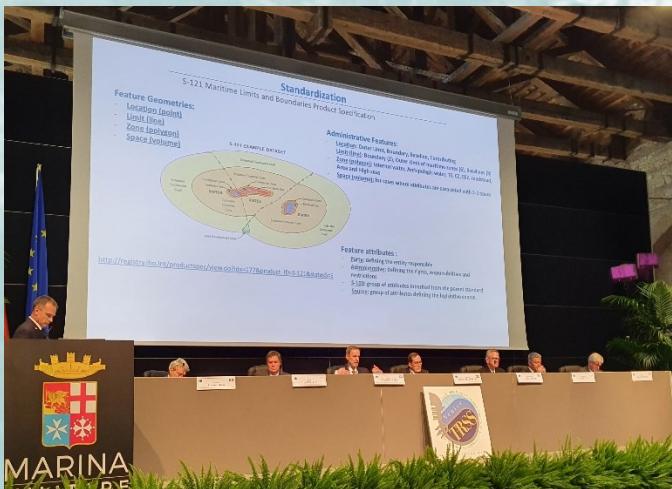
The Symposium was opened by the Major of Venice Mr. Brugnaro, Chief of Italian Navy Adm Credendino, the Italian Minister of Defence Hon. Guerini, Director General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amb. Sequi, Secretary-General of IMO Dr Lim from remote, EU Commission Vice-President Mr Borrell from remote, President of Fincantieri Gen. Graziano and President of Leonardo, Mr Profumo. All emphasized the centrality of the seas and oceans, the importance of dialogue and cooperation and the necessity of a holistic approach to the Ocean from all the stakeholders, as the Ocean is a resource to preserve for the future generations and to use to contrast the climate change. The blue cluster approach is paramount to contribute to the security of shipping in the world's hotspots and to preserve biodiversity.

The symposium then developed into the following three thematic panels:

- *1<sup>st</sup> Panel - Protecting our Oceans, for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Blue Economy.* The objective of the panel was to share experiences and solutions for an effective contribution of the military sphere to the protection of the maritime environment, integrated in a transversal approach, both national and inter-governmental. In this regard, the conceptual connotation of the panel favoured an inter-agency approach that lends itself to involving other relevant institutional actors.



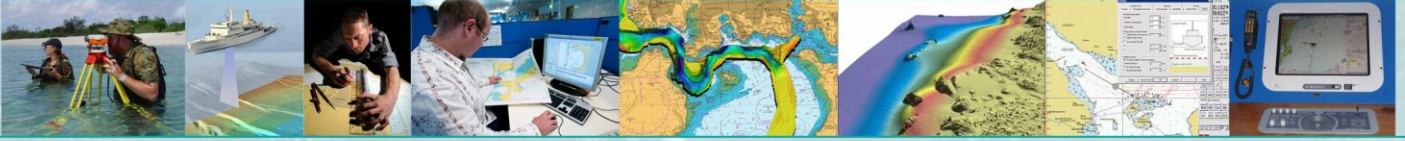
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Panel - Developing technology and capabilities in a competitive age.** The panel's objective was to identify, within the framework of general technological progress, the lines of development with the greatest impact on navies, as well as possible best practices to be put in place in order to identify at an early stage the technologies that could provide a competitive advantage in the action on the maritime domain understood in its broadest sense.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Panel - From Naval Power to Maritime Power: integrating efforts in a whole-of-nation multidimensional approach.** The objective of the panel was to gather the different perspectives of the various actors of the Blue Domain - military and non-military - in order to appreciate different perceptions and main lines of development of maritime power, as well as to identify a possible model in which to inscribe the increased tasks of the Navies, defining how they can contribute, in a synergic way with all the articulations of the State and other international structures, to the security of the Blue Commons and to global prosperity.



1<sup>st</sup> Panel – UN DOALOS Director Dr Jares presentation

Noteworthy within the 1<sup>st</sup> Panel was the speech of U.N. DOALOS Director Dr Vladimir Jares, who recalled the importance of UNCLOS which, after 40 years since its inception, is still an effective and up-to-date tool in maintaining global order on the seas. In this regard, Dr Jares mentioned the important collaboration between DOALOS and the IHO on the S-121 – Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification, inviting the States to start experimenting such useful product.

IHO Director Luigi Sinapi presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel on “*Hydrography: A Capabilities Multiplier for Sustainable Development*”, highlighting how Hydrography actively contributes to the sustainable development and Blue Economy of countries, regions, and even the entire planet, through the main challenges that the IHO is facing in the current decade (2021-2030): Mapping the Ocean, the implementation of a new and universally recognized way of representing the marine environment: the Universal Hydrographic Data Model S-100, and then the commitment to the largest initiative ever launched in favour of the Oceans: the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). In fact, Hydrography plays a key role as a capabilities multiplier for all in protecting our Oceans, and for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Blue Economy.



**XIII T-RSS 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel – Presentation by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi**

In his closing speech, the Chief of Staff of the Italian Navy, Adm. Enrico Credendino, remarked how the entire maritime community is urged to collectively commit to better cope with the new challenges ahead, first of all *"protecting our Oceans, developing technology and Whole-of-nation multidimensional approach"*.

The three panels highlighted how the global economy is indissolubly linked to the sea, and every new challenge opens up opportunities, above all the necessity of a greater cooperation among all the stakeholders in the maritime domain. Emerging technology development brings new opportunities but also new challenges. Navies possess all the necessary high-level qualities for this technical, scientific and cultural challenge, and must embrace technology to maintain a competitive advantage, alongside the skills of *"naval diplomacy"*, an instrument of cooperation, dialogue and union among the peoples.

Finally, along with the conclusions that were drawn during the discussions, the Chiefs of the Navies, gathered in Venice for the thirteenth Trans - Regional Maritime Symposium, drafted a *"Joint Statement to raise the attention of the international community on the need to commit every effort to address the maritime dimension with a holistic, transversal and inclusive approach. The centrality of the oceans and of the seas and the need for their protection as fundamental values to develop and sustain virtuous dynamics for the prosperity and the wellbeing of our people and for the entire globe must be advocated"*.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Symposium is planned to be held in Venice, Italy in October 2024.