



## 22<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY Kingston, Jamaica, 12-22 July

The International Seabed Authority held its twenty-second annual session at its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica from 12 to 22 July with a crowded agenda, including elections to its executive Council, two subsidiary organs and of a Secretary-General to steer its activities for the next four years.

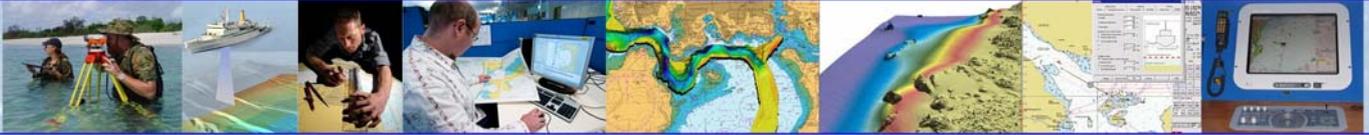


*The Secretary-General of ISA and President of the IHO Secretariat  
with Mr Tidiani Couma, representative of Monaco to the ISA*

The Authority's supreme organ, the Assembly elected Md. Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh) as its President for 2016. The Council elected Mariusz Orion Jędrysek (Poland) as its President for the current session. President Robert Ward represented the IHO during the first week of the session.

Among the items on the Council's agenda was consideration of a proposed Agreement on Cooperation between the IHO and the ISA. This was agreed and resulted in the Agreement being signed on 14 July on behalf of the IHO by President Ward and on behalf of the ISA by its Secretary-General Mr. Nii Allotey Odunton of Ghana.

President Ward addressed the Council where he introduced the IHO. He went on to remind the Council that less than 10% of the area under its jurisdiction has been measured directly and that this situation can best be addressed by introducing policies that oblige at least some level of the depth data being collected as part of the exploration and environmental assessment arrangements, to be made more widely available. He reminded the Council that this would follow the growing trend in other parts of the world's sea areas – where the policy is to *measure*



*once – and use many times.* He highlighted also that adopting or encouraging such a regime in the ISA of making fundamental depth data more widely available would also directly support the recently adopted Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development number Goal 14 - concerning the sustainability of ocean activities.

The President expanded upon this theme at a side event where he briefed approximately 40 delegates, who chose to attend.

As a result of the IHO representation at the Assembly and Council meetings of the ISA several groups representing ISA licensees (Contractors) and the Secretariat expressed interest in further developing the ISA protocols to ensure that bathymetric data collected under the ISA regime is made available to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) and the IHO-IOC GEBCO project.



## 12<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IMO-ITU EXPERTS GROUP

London, United Kingdom, 11-15 July



12<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO-ITU EG

The Experts Group (EG) established jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) consists of people active in IMO and ITU in relationship to all aspects of maritime communications. The ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) which is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies, including aeronautical and maritime navigation. The function of the IMO/ITU EG is to advise on the development of future requirements for

maritime radiocommunications taking into account the operational needs as defined by IMO and the regulatory needs as defined by ITU. The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO/ITU EG (IMO/ITU EG12) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London, UK, from 11 to 15 July under the chairmanship of Mr Christian Rissone (France). Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO. The session was opened by Mr H Yamada, Senior Deputy Director, Subdivision for Operational Safety and Human Element, Maritime Safety Division at the IMO.

The Group addressed a number of topics of direct interest to IHO Member States resulting from discussions at the 96<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC96), 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the IMO Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR3), outcomes of the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) and in preparation of WRC-19. The IHB submitted one comment paper and made a number of interventions, which were mainly to clarify misunderstanding of the Worldwide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) processes, NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinator responsibilities and the nature of Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

In particular the Experts Group considered the *Interconnection of NAVTEX and Inmarsat SafetyNET receivers and their display on Integrated Navigation Display Systems*, additional modules to the *Revised Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation System (INS) (resolution MSC.252(83)) relating to the harmonization of bridge design and display of navigation information received via communications equipment* and *Guidelines for the harmonization display of navigation information received via communications equipment*. The IHB submitted comments in relation to these items, which were included in the revised draft amendments to resolutions MSC.252(83) (*Revised Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation Systems (INS)*), MSC.306(87) (*Revised Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Equipment*) and MSC.148(77) (*Revised Performance Standards for Narrow-Band Direct-Printing Telegraph*



*Equipment for the Reception of Navigational and Meteorological Warnings and Urgent Information to Ships (NAVTEX)*), which will be submitted to NCSR4 for consideration.

The Group considered the use of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) on unmanned craft, their operations and dynamic navigation markers, noting that Recommendations ITU-R M.585-7 and M.1375-5 did not address these issues. The Group noted that these Recommendations did not provide guidance for the assignment of identification to AIS devices used to mark a dynamic navigation hazard, which could improve navigation safety if separately distinguished from aids to navigation.

The Group reviewed, in detail, the report of the Correspondence Group (CG) on the Modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and comments were prepared for further consideration by the CG in preparing their report to NCSR4.

The Experts Group considered the compatibility of multiple GMDSS satellite services with respect to the delivery of MSI. The Group noted that the formatting of Enhanced Group Call (EGC) message content, the routing of messages from the originators (MSI providers and SAR operators) to the satellite service providers for broadcasting and the requirement for MSI providers to monitor their broadcasts were of particular relevance. The IHB highlighted the guidance on the standardisation and the harmonizing of the format of EGC messages contained in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual and the International SafetyNET Manual.

The Group noted the concerns of the MSI providers in meeting the requirement to monitor their broadcasts when transmitted via multiple satellite service providers, which could cause cost increases. The Group discussed the issue of interoperability for the shore elements of the system. The future development of NAVDAT and its potential place alongside the NAVTEX system network were considered.

The Group discussed the application by *Thuraya* and *Iridium* for recognition as mobile satellite service providers; of particular concern was out-of-band-emission interference and the Group considered the IMO should invite the ITU to take appropriate regulatory measures to ensure full protection of the availability of the frequency bands to be used by new recognised GMDSS satellite service providers for the provision of GMDSS services.

The Experts Group discussed draft definitions of Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRD) for consideration by the ITU and the need to consider the operational and safety of navigation aspects and which devices should be displayed by AIS and on an ECDIS.

In closing the meeting, Mr Ashok Mahapatra, Director IMO Maritime Safety Division, noted the progress on the GMDSS Modernization Plan in preparation for NCSR4; he also noted the progress on the IMO positions for various WRC agenda items. He acknowledged the efforts on the recognition of new mobile satellite service providers and the progress in resolving a number of important issues.

The next session of the IMO/ITU EG is scheduled from 10 to 14 July 2017 (*IMO/ITU EG13*). The meeting report and associated documents will be available on the IMO website under IMODOCS in due course.