



## 97<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE London, United Kingdom, 21-25 November



*IMO MSC 97 in plenary session*

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) is the highest technical body of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The functions of the MSC are to consider matters related to aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures, hydrographic information, salvage and rescue and any other issues directly affecting maritime safety. The 97<sup>th</sup> session of the MSC (MSC97) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London, UK, from 21 to 25 November. Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO. In addressing the agenda of the session in his opening statement, the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim, highlighted the importance of maritime security in relation to world trade, he noted with concern the recent reports of attacks on warships and *MV Galicia Spirit* in the Bab el Mandeb; he reminded flag States of their obligations to conduct threat assessments and set security levels for ships in accordance with SOLAS and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. He also highlighted the on-going work to protect maritime transport from cyber threats as well as on going issues with domestic passenger ship safety and unsafe mixed migration by sea which were all topics of major concern to the MSC. In addition to addressing the formal agenda in his opening speech, the Secretary-General of IMO hosted the annual awards ceremony for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

### ***Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea***

The Committee reviewed the MSC.1/Circ.896/Rev.2 – *Interim measures for combating unsafe practices associated with the trafficking, smuggling or transport of migrants by sea* – and invited Member States and international organizations to report incidents with information via the facilitation module in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).



## Hydrography and Charting

The MSC addressed various matters related to hydrography and nautical charting resulting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR3) held in March this year. The main items included adopting amendments to resolution A.572(14), as amended, – *General provisions on ships' routeing* – on establishing multiple structures at sea to be distributed as a MSC circular once confirmed by the IMO Assembly at its next meeting. The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.1 – *Amendments to the International SafetyNET Manual* – and MSC.1/Circ.1403/Rev.1 – *Amendments to the IMO NAVTEX Manual*. IHO made an intervention proposing an earlier entry-into-force date and to delete the requirement of providing at least 12 months notification; the MSC decided to refer this proposal to the NCSR Sub-Committee for further consideration. The Committee also authorized the NCSR Sub-Committee to establish an Expert Group on ships' routeing at future sessions.



Mr Kitack Lim presents Captain Radhika Menon (India) with the certificate for Exceptional Bravery at Sea on behalf of her crew of the *M/T Samourna Swarajya* for her display of great determination and courage in rescuing seven fishermen from the sinking boat *Durgamma* after it had been adrift for six days in fierce rain, high winds and rough seas, at great risk.

## Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1551 – *Navigational Warnings concerning endangering the Safety of Navigation* – to ensure appropriate navigational warnings were issued in accordance with resolution A.706(17), as amended, – *World-Wide Navigational Warning Service* – prior to operations which might threaten the safety of navigation. The MSC considered information provided by the United Kingdom on the Inmarsat FleetBroadband Maritime Safety Data Service (MSDS) for recognition and use in the GMDSS. It was agreed that the NCSR Sub-Committee should consider how the process should be undertaken and whether it should be considered as a new application or as an up-grade to the existing services; further the NCSR should report to the next session of the MSC with advice on which requirements of resolution A.1001(25) – *Criteria for the provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)* – should be applicable.



## Maritime Cybersecurity

The Committee reviewed the MCS.1/Circ.1526 – *Interim guidelines on maritime cyber risk management* – and decided to wait for the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL41) to complete its work on facilitation aspects before any further consideration to the possible mandatory nature of the Guidelines.

## Office Bearers

The MSC unanimously re-elected Mr Bradley Groves, Australia, as Chair and Mr Juan Carlos Cubisino, Argentina, as Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2017.

## Next Sessions

The next sessions of the MSC are scheduled from 7 to 16 June 2017 (MSC98) and May 2018 (MSC99).



## VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 21 November

HE Peter Thomson, permanent representative of Fiji to the United Nations (UN), and current President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) visited the IHO Secretariat on 21 November as part of his official visit to Monaco. He was accompanied by Ms Signe Schelde Poulsen, Special Assistant to the President of the UNGA and Mr Abdelghani Merabet, Senior Advisor during his visit.

The UNGA is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN in which all member nations have equal representation. The UNGA elects its President for each session. HE Peter Thomson was elected by the UNGA on 13 June 2016 to serve as President of its seventy-first session, which runs from September 2016 to September 2017.



*HE Peter Thomson and Director Mustafa Iptes*

HE Peter Thomson was welcomed by Director Mustafa Iptes and received a briefing on the role of the IHO and its relationship with several UN bodies including the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Seabed Authority (ISA).



The President of the UNGA expressed his pleasure to visit the IHO headquarters and highlighted his particular interest in promoting interest in ocean affairs as the former President of the ISA Council in the 2015-2016 session and now the President of the UNGA. He emphasized the importance of the forthcoming high-level United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*, which will be convened in New York, from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day. The Conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden. The IHO will be represented by Secretary-General Robert Ward.

The visit continued with a tour of the IHO headquarters and in particular the Chart Room where HE Peter Thomson received a presentation on GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) charts and INT (International) charts.



*President of the UNGA Thomson and Director Iptes discuss on INT charts.*



## 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)

IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 15-18 November

The eighth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was hosted by the IHO Secretariat in Monaco, from 15 to 18 November 2016. The meeting was opened by Robert Ward, Secretary-General of the IHO, and Dr Mathias Jonas, National Hydrographer of Germany, and Chair of the HSSC.



*Opening of the meeting by Robert Ward, Secretary-General of the IHO and Dr Mathias Jonas (Germany), Chair of the HSSC*

HSSC-8 was attended by 74 representatives from 22 Member States, nine international organizations accredited as observers and the IHO Secretariat. Director Gilles Bessero and Assistant Directors Tony Pharaoh and Yves Guillam provided the input from the IHO Secretariat and secretariat support. Jeff Wootton, recently appointed as Technical Standards Support Officer, demonstrated the use of the IHO Geospatial Information Registry ([registry.iho.int](http://registry.iho.int)).

The Chair Group, composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the HSSC, the Chairs of its subordinate bodies and representatives of the IHO Secretariat, met on 14 November to discuss the major items on the agenda and prepare consolidated proposals for further consideration by the Committee.



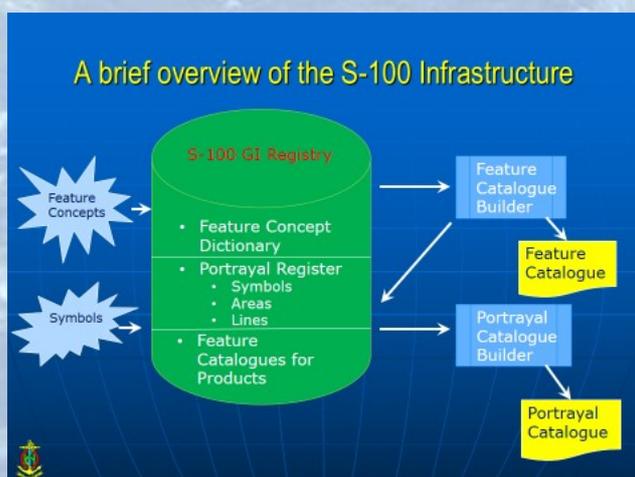
The Committee reviewed the activities, proposals, and work plans of its subordinate bodies and the decisions of other organs and organizations affecting its work. Following this review, the Committee agreed on the key messages to be delivered to the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) in April 2017, in relation to hydrographic standards and services. The Committee endorsed the input from the Chair Group related to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan and the preparation of the draft 3-year Work Programme of the IHO for 2018-2020 that will be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration.

The main outcomes of the meeting are given below:

## S-100 development and related activities

The Committee acknowledged the significant efforts of the S-100 Working Group (S-100WG) and the outstanding support provided by the Republic of Korea (ROK) to progress the upgrade of the web interface of the S-100 Registry.

The delegation of the ROK reported on the first sea-trial of S-10x test data sets, including dynamic data such as S-111 (*Surface Currents*) and S-112 (*Dynamic Water Level Data Transfer*), together with static data such as S-101 (*ENCs*) and S-102 (*Bathymetric Surface*) data.



The Committee endorsed the draft new Edition 3.0.0 of S-100 - *IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model* and welcomed the progress of the work of the Project Teams responsible for developing product specifications: S-101 (*ENCs*), S-121 (*Maritime Limits and Boundaries*), S-124 (*Navigational Warnings*)<sup>1</sup> and S-129 (*Under Keel Clearance Management Information*). The Committee noted that the complexity of S-100 developments and the limited resources available had resulted in some delays to progress. Taking in to account the various user requirements together with the constrained resources available, the Committee invited the Nautical Information Provision Working Group to place priority on the development of two product specifications related to nautical information: S-122 (*Marine Protected Areas*) and S-123 (*Radio Services*).

<sup>1</sup> This Project Team reports to the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS SC) and keeps the HSSC informed.

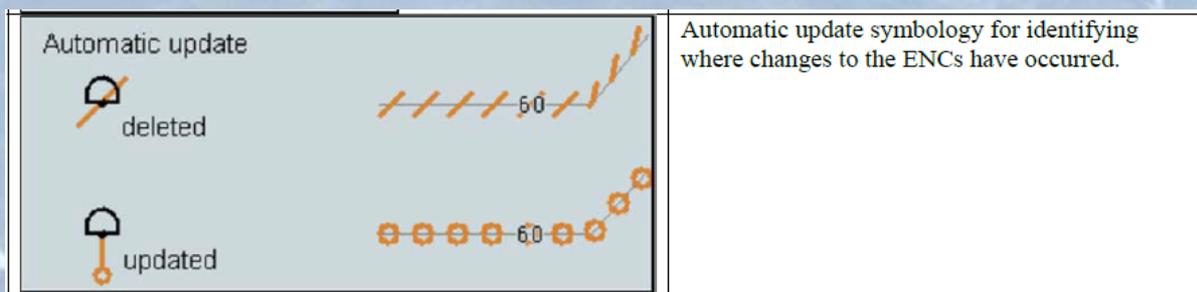


The Committee decided to disband the Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG) and to continue the development of the protection scheme (the S-63 equivalent component) of S-100 based-products as well as the monitoring of cyber security requirements through a Project Team under the S-100WG. The expertise required to support the Secretariat as Scheme Administrator for the existing S-63 - *Data Protection Scheme* will now be under the responsibility of the ENC Standards Maintenance Working Group (ENCWG).

The Committee endorsed the proposal of the Chair of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group (HDWG) to seek contractor support for the development of an experimental multi-lingual wiki-based demonstrator to support a subsequent upgrade of IHO Publication S-32 - *Hydrographic Dictionary*. The Committee tasked the HDWG to develop a draft policy and road-map taking into account the S-100 framework.

## ECDIS matters and Nautical Cartography

The Committee endorsed the principles of the draft revised editions of S-58 - *ENC validation checks*, S-65 - *ENCs: Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance* and S-66 - *Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements* proposed by the ENCWG and tasked the working group to finalize the drafts and forward them to the Secretariat for subsequent consideration by IHO Member States. The Committee also endorsed the ENCWG proposal to use ECDIS Chart 1 to assist mariners in checking ECDIS operating with Edition 4.0 of the IHO S-52 *Presentation Library*.



**Example of new symbols introduced in Edition 4.0 of the IHO S-52 Presentation Library**

The Committee tasked the Secretariat, in liaison with the ENCWG, to describe the procedure in a new edition of the IHO webpage on “*ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check in Ships*”.

In response to the concerns raised in a submission from the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), the Committee tasked the ENCWG and the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) to draft a consolidated, authoritative IHO document addressing the issue of “equivalent” Temporary and Preliminary Notices (T&Ps) for ENCs, with the intention of distributing the completed document to Hydrographic Offices, Port State Control



(PSC) authorities and mariners. In order to facilitate this task, the Committee requested the Secretariat to invite IHO Member States to liaise with their national maritime administration in order to provide feedback on PSC issues related to the carriage and operation of ECDIS.

The Committee endorsed proposed changes to Edition 4.6.0 of S-4 - *Chart Specifications of the IHO* and tasked the NCWG to finalize the draft new edition 4.7.0 and forward it to the Secretariat for subsequent consideration by the IHO Member States. The Committee reached a similar decision with regard to the new draft Edition 3.0.0 of S-11 Part A - *Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes*, which now includes a separate section on ENC schemes. The Committee reminded the NCWG of the importance of completing its work item on the future of the paper chart.

The provisional results of a study addressing the possible development of an additional bathymetric layer for S-57 ENCs that would provide higher density contour lines to mariners were presented by Germany. The Committee agreed that this matter should be considered further, under a new task and work item of the ENCWG. The representatives of the stakeholders took this opportunity to highlight the pressing requirement for all IHO Member States that produce ENCs to populate them with *assessed* CATZOC values (1 to 5) to assist mariners in their decision-making process for safe navigation.

### **Consideration of the need to establish a Hydrographic Surveys Working Group**

The Committee considered the report provided by the Chair of the Hydrographic Surveys Scoping Project Team (H2S PT) established in 2015, and decided to establish a Project Team on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (HS PT), primarily tasked to review S-44 - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys*, draft a new edition, if appropriate, and identify additional tasks, if any, that might require the establishment of a standing Hydrographic Surveys Working Group.

### **Relations with Stakeholders**

The Committee welcomed the various presentations given by the stakeholders and expert contributors and benefited in particular from the user perspective provided by the representative of INTERTANKO. The Committee invited the IHO Secretariat to monitor the activities of the newly established Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium and agreed a set of enabling actions to address the topics reported in the presentation provided by the representative of the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) that might impact current charting specifications, the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project and the on-going development of S-100-based product specifications in relation to the protection of cables. Taking note of the terms of the MoU on cooperation between the IHO and ICPC and the subsequent creation of an ICPC Focus Group, the Committee agreed to initiate the development



of a road-map to guide the practical implementation of the MoU. The representative of the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) informed the Committee on the development of e-navigation training. The Committee welcomed the participation of a representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He provided input to further develop the draft submission on activating the IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) that is being prepared by the IHO Secretariat, at the invitation of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, for consideration by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue.

## Next Meetings

The next meeting of the HSSC (HSSC-9) is scheduled from 6 to 10 November 2017, in Ottawa, Canada. HSSC-10 is scheduled to be held in Rostock, Germany in May 2018. The Committee agreed to schedule HSSC-10 and subsequent annual HSSC meetings in May in order to provide its input to the annual meetings of the Council scheduled in October.

## More Information

All documents considered at the meeting and further information are available on the IHO web site at [Home > Committees & WG > HSSC](#).



*HSSC-8 participants*



## 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IMSO ASSEMBLY London, United Kingdom, 15-17 November

The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) is the inter-governmental organization whose primary purpose is the oversight of certain public satellite safety and security communication services provided by mobile satellite communication systems. IMSO also acts as the Coordinator of the international system for the Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT), appointed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ensure the operation of the LRIT system worldwide by auditing and reviewing the performance of the system. The governing body of the organization is the Assembly of the Parties which meet every two years. IMSO comprises 102 Member States. The 24<sup>th</sup> session of the IMSO Assembly was held at the IMO Headquarters in London, UK, from 15 to 17 November under the chairmanship of Mr Dikko Tahir Bala (Nigeria), who was elected at the beginning of the Assembly. Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO.



*Mr Kitack Lim, SG of IMO, addressing the IMSO Assembly*

In his opening address, Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the IMO noted that IMSO would continue to monitor the LRIT and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) service providers as well as the technical assessment of potential new GMDSS mobile satellite service providers. He said that the cooperation between IMO and IMSO remained important and was an area for delegates to keep in mind when considering the restructuring of IMSO later in the Assembly.

The Assembly agreed that the International Agreement on the use of Inmarsat Ship Earth Stations (SES) within Territorial Seas and Ports will need to be altered if additional GMDSS mobile satellite service providers are recognized by the IMO. It was noted this could be either through termination of the current Agreement, establishment of a new Agreement for each new provider or the amendment of the existing SES Agreement to make it more generic.

The meeting addressed a number of other topics of direct interest to IHO Member States, in particular the GMDSS and potential new GMDSS mobile satellite service providers. The IMSO Directorate gave a presentation providing insight information relating to the activities of the Directorate to oversee GMDSS services. The IHO representative made an intervention, which was to clarify a number of concerns raised at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Worldwide Navigation



Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC). These concerns relate to the monitoring of broadcasts of Warning Messages by NAVAREA Coordinators, the potential increase in costs to NAVAREA Coordinators as a result of the introduction of a second GMDSS mobile satellite service provider and the need for equipment interoperability.

The Assembly received a presentation from the satellite service provider Iridium, which briefed the Assembly on developments to Iridium's future services and the work being undertaken to address the conditions identified at the third session of the IMO Sub Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR3), which need to be fulfilled prior to consideration for recognition by the IMO as a GMDSS mobile satellite service provider.

A considerable portion of the Assembly was devoted to the proposed restructuring of the IMSO Directorate and the associated budget implications and financial plan for the period 2017-2018.

The next session of the IMSO Assembly is scheduled for the period October-November 2018.

The meeting report and associated documents will be available on the IMSO website under the IMSO Members Area in due course.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC SEABED MAPPING INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASMIWG)

Warnemünde, Germany, 11 November

The Atlantic Seabed Mapping International Working Group (ASMIWG) was established in 2015 to address seabed mapping issues related to the implementation of the *Galway Statement* of 2013 through which the European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA) and Canada agreed to join forces on Atlantic Ocean Research.

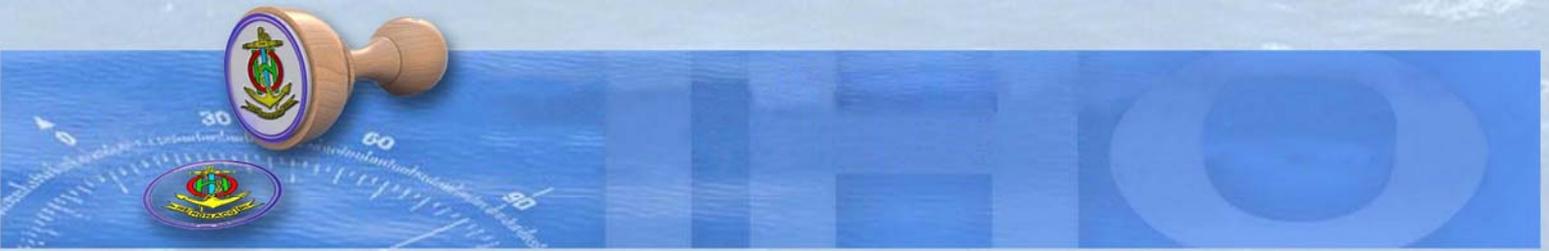


*Participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASMIWG*

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASMIWG was held at the offices of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) in Warnemünde, Germany, on 11 November. The meeting was chaired by Mr Alan Stevenson, British Geological Survey (BGS)/EuroGeoSurvey Marine Geology Expert Group (EGS MGEG) with representatives from the EU, Canada and USA as well as representatives from the European Commission (EC) and Non-Governmental Organizations. Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO and the IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project.

The ASMIWG reviewed progress since its previous meeting and the direction and guidance provided from the Canada-EU-US Tripartite Implementation Committee. The meeting received information on a recent North Atlantic transect undertaken from 22 July to 5 August in the Canadian Coast Guard vessel *CCG Louis S. St-Laurent* en route to the Arctic.

A brief update was received from the NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) on progress with developments to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB)



*Brief Meeting Reports*