

IHO World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service – Sub Committee (WWNWS-SC)

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING COURSE
SUMMARY REPORT**

Date of report: 13 January 2014

Course: MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING

Date: 16-18 December, 2013

Venue: Calders Hotel and Conference Centre Fish Hoek, South Africa

Instructors: Mr. Christopher JANUS (National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, USA), Mr. William VAN-DEN-BERGH (United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, UK), Mr. Guy BEALE (United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, UK)

Instructional Support: Mr. Sidney Osborne (Superintendent of Chart Production, South African Navy Hydrographic Office)

Opening Address: Mr. Christopher JANUS, Mr. William VAN-DEN-BERGH, and Mr. Guy BEALE

Administrative Support: Mr. Sidney OSBOURNE (Superintendent of Chart Production, South African Navy Hydrographic Office), Ms. Heidi OOSTERHOF (Conference Coordinator, Calder Hotel and Conference Centre)

Participants: South Africa (2), Kenya, Seychelles, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola (2), Tanzania, Madagascar, Namibia, and Mauritius (**Annex A**)

Introduction

On 16-18 December 2013, a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Training Course to benefit countries in the area of influence of the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) was held on behalf of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Capacity Building Committee (CBC) and the IHO's World-Wide Navigational Warning Service – Sub Committee (WWNWS-SC).

This was the 10th learning opportunity facilitated by the WWNWS-SC as a capacity building first phase initiative since the program began in 2007. The first phase is the most urgent and easiest to implement and consists of organising the collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to provide real-time situation awareness of safety critical information. It also covers the supplementary requirements to maintain and update existing charts and publications to ensure the safe navigation of shipping governed by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

The WWNWS is a coordinated global service for the promulgation of warnings regarding hazards to navigation, which might endanger international shipping. The syllabus included guidance on all the subject areas considered suitable for transmission as NAVAREA warnings as described in IMO Res. A.706(17).

The Republic of South Africa (NAVAREA VII Coordinator) and India (NAVAREA VIII) are responsible for the sea areas covered by the SAIHC and control the broadcast of NAVAREA messages within this region, making full and effective use of national broadcast facilities in keeping with the provisions of SOLAS. The NAVAREA Coordinator has the responsibility to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within their area. For the SAIHC region, in particular along the coast of Namibia, there is no functioning NAVTEX station that provides coastal warnings over this area; the Walvis Bay NAVTEX Station is temporarily out of service. However, NAVAREA VII, using SafetyNET along with close coordination with Namibia—the national coordinator, covers this gap seamlessly. What this provides and what this demonstrates is an easy-to-utilize capability and a robust and easy-to-implement contingency plan to promulgate Coastal Warnings at NO COST to the national coordinator. This invaluable service demonstrates, almost instantly, the benefits of the WWNWS, the flexibility and efficiency of SafetyNET, and the value MSI provides to shipping in these waters.

Objective

The objective of the course was to increase the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA VII and NAVAREA VIII Coordinators and, ultimately, to emphasise the importance of establishing expertise in the countries within this NAVAREA to fulfill the role of National Coordinators. To achieve this, the course was intended to provide practical instruction and guidance to participants who are involved with MSI and the drafting of Navigational Warnings, or with the issuance of MSI for the high seas. The aim of the course was to ensure that all attendees would:

- Endeavour to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within their coastal region.
- Assess all information in the light of knowledge for relevance to navigation in the coastal region.
- Draft navigational warnings in accordance with the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI.
- Pass NAVAREA warnings for further promulgation to the NAVAREA Coordinator, using the quickest means possible.

Content

The Course content (**Annex B**) included all aspects of the WWNWS. The participants were presented with overviews, course documents, and digital media covering: the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, Maritime Safety Information, and the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. They were also familiarized with the major guidance documents; IMO Res A.705(17), IMO Res A.706(17), the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information, the IHO Special Publication No.53 (S-53) and the IMO SafetyNET and NAVTEX manuals. Extended time was spent explaining the National Coordinators roles, responsibilities and requirements, including the need to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within the region. Particular attention was placed on the importance to immediately assess all information upon receipt and decide whether to inform the NAVAREA Coordinator as appropriate.

The course was presented over a period of 3 days, which included 2 days of practical exercises. The UKHO graciously provided charts of Cape Town and approaches for use in the practical exercises to evaluate source data for validity and applicability as NAVAREA or Coastal warnings. The participants worked in conjunction with the instructors on the second day and reviewed messages in a controlled and structured environment. On the third day, the participants were split into teams and assigned the task of independent watchkeepers and worked in a rehearsed real-time operations room scenario with multiple categories of messages being assigned. This allowed the instructors to see

the progress each student had made during this training effort and validated the course content and instruction as being both appropriate and effective.

The course also included a very beneficial visit from Mr. Sidney Osbourne, Superintendent of Chart Production, South African Navy Hydrographic Office. He provided invaluable insight into the dependent relationship between MSI user and MSI provider and sighted several real world examples.

Instruction

Mr. JANUS acted as course leader supported my Mr. VAN-DEN-BERG and Mr. BEALE, who equally shared the presentation duties. Each instructor had varying degrees of experience, skill and knowledge with managing and staffing a NAVAREA operations room.

A high level of interaction between the instructors and the participants was encouraged and achieved, which added to a relaxed classroom atmosphere. Individual participation allowed for active engagement, which proved invaluable to the success of the course. All the participants were actively encouraged to discuss their national MSI concerns and relay their own stories of note from within their regions.

Having so many participants with varying levels of GMDSS knowledge added an extra dimension to the proceedings. This provided the opportunity for the instructors to offer practical advice and guidance on best practices in conjunction with explaining the basic elements of establishing National procedures for the promulgation of MSI. Each administration present was encouraged to appoint a National Point of Contact for GMDSS issues and to communicate and revise their national strategy and plans with the IMO, IHO and respective NAVAREA Coordinators.

At the end of the course, all of the participants were provided with digital media containing copies of all the presentations and practical exercises. It was now over to them to share their knowledge and it was stressed that they were expected to become the trainers for the personnel in their administrations who were responsible for gathering, analysing, drafting and promulgating urgent navigational warnings for the coastal area of their country.

Participants / Language

Specific requests were made by the IHO CBC to the member states, in their solicitation of participants to attend the course. The aim was to ensure that only those personnel charged with MSI responsibilities would attend the course and that it was not intended for policy or administrative personnel, and this was successfully achieved.

It is with great pleasure to report that all participants were able to attend, which has not happened since 2010. This is especially impressive since the time between the solicitation for students and the commencement date was about two months—all the credit goes to the IHO CBC, in particular Mr. Steve BARNETT, for his efficiency coordinating the logistics and many other critical details.

In alignment with the specific IMO requirements that NAVAREA and Coastal Warning must be provided in English, it had been requested that attendees should have basic written and oral understanding of the English language. In this case, almost all participants had a very good competency level in the English language thus ensuring that all the teaching goals were achieved. However, there were two students who had a very difficult time understanding English as well as being able to properly analyse information provided during the practical exercises. Hopefully, that was related to their language deficiency, but it was difficult to completely draw that conclusion. It

is imperative for those that attend the course to meet the prerequisites prescribed by the IHO CBC. When that does not happen it detracts from the overall effectiveness of the course for everyone.

Facilities / Support

The instruction took place in a comfortable and well-equipped conference facility, which had been fully prepared in advance. The South African Navy Hydrographic Office printed all the required documents and provided excellent support. The presentation facilities at the Calders Hotel and Conference Centre were outstanding. Lunch and breakfast were included on sight and students received vouchers for dinner, which they could use at one of three different restaurants nearby. For future courses, the IHO should strive to book similar all-inclusive facilities. They provide, by far, the most conducive learning environment along with many obvious conveniences.

Acknowledgements

The CBC of the IHO financially supported the course. This included financial support for the instructors, for the second consecutive year, and that funding ultimately made the course possible not to mention a success.

The instructors were especially indebted to Mr. Steve BARNETT (Deputy Capacity Building Manager, UKHO) for his extremely efficient coordination of all travel and berthing requirements, including his liaison with the IHO.

Conclusion

Once again it is very pleasing to report that this MSI training course maintained the high standards set by the previous models and that all the objectives were fully met. The analysis of the final practical exercises recorded the score of 72% of answers rated at Good or Very Good. It now becomes the responsibility of the participants to go back to their organizations and use their increased awareness and knowledge of the WVNWS in order to improve the flow of MSI to their respective NAVAREA Coordinators and ultimately fulfil the role of National Coordinators within their countries in the future.

The course feedback (**Annex C**), on all aspects relating to this training course, confirms the overall success of this mission. In closing, the WVNWS is extremely pleased with the results of this training effort and looks forward to continuing its support as the course is rotated to other Regional Hydrographic Commissions within the IHO.

Next Planned Course

The next confirmed course will be in held in August 2014 in New Zealand for Member States of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC), which will be the 11th First Phase Capacity Building module. There are three additional 2014 courses scheduled, but not yet confirmed. One in the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC), one in the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC), and the last is in the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAHC).



ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE, WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA

Instructors:

	Surname	First Name	Country	Org.	Rank/ Title	E-mail:	Telephone	Fax
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Participants:

	Surname	First Name	Country Organisation	Rank/ Title	E-mail:	Telephone	Fax
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ANNEX B

SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE
SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE
SOUTH AFRICA 16-18 DECEMBER 2013**

Time	Session	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
0900-1015	First session	Welcome	Master Mariners Perspective (Guest Speaker – Mr. Sidney Osbourne, Superintendent of Chart Production, South Africa Navy Hydrographic Office)	Practical Exercise Day 2 Review Message formatting
		Administration		Chart updating & liaison with charting HO
		Introductions of participants		
10015-1030	Coffee			
1030-1230	Second session	Introduction to GMDSS	National Coordinator Duties, Responsibilities and Requirements: knowledge, equipment, contacts, statutory authority to issue warnings etc. Regional SafetyNET and NAVTEX contact details	Practical Exercise "A day in the life of a National Coordinator"
		International SafetyNET system		
		International NAVTEX system		
1230-1400	Lunch			
1400-1530	Third session	Introduction to WWNWS	Joint IMO/IHO MSI Manual Sections 6 and 7	Practical Exercise Review
		Introduction to MSI	Practical Exercise Information assessment for RNW	
1530-1545	Coffee			
1545 - 1700	Fourth session	WWNWS Guidance Documents	Practical Exercise (cont) Information assessment for RNW	Lessons Learned & Closing Remarks

ANNEX C

MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE – CLAXTON BAY, TRINIDAD - STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Organized	11	1	0	0	12
Right length	8	4	0	0	11
The course was too basic	2	4	5	1	12
Presenters understandable	9	2	1	0	12
Instructors were prepared	10	1	0	0	11
Practical exercises were helpful	10	2	0	0	12
Breaks were the right length	8	3	0	0	11
I understand what WWNWS is	8	4	0	0	12
I understand my role & responsibility	8	4	0	0	12
I feel comfortable sending MSI	8	4	0	0	12
I feel this class was well worth my time	9	2	0	1	12
Guest speaker was relevant	5	7	0	0	12

Comments

1. Everything was good.
2. Very good. I liked it a lot.
3. This course has broadened my understanding of Navigation Warning Systems and I highly appreciate the patience of the facilitators and their knowledge, and I am looking forward to using that knowledge. Thank you very much.
4. Course material relevant and up to date. Very good use of relevant practical exercises that reinforced the theoretical learning material. BZ!!
5. Many thanks for the best organization and for the important documents and CD.
6. Insightful and an eye opener on the global trend as far as MSI is concerned.
7. The course was helpful, but difficult because each exercise depends on a situation that happened on the sea or the chart. Thanks for teaching us. We will improve our job and our organization.
8. This MSI training course has helped me to enhance my knowledge and skill in the field of Maritime Radio Services in Mauritius, especially in Maritime Radio Communication. The course was interesting and instructive. Thank you for your kind support and collaboration for making this course a great success.
9. The practical exercises will build my knowledge. Thank you for a well-organized course.