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CIRCULAR LETTER 12/2017
07 February 2017

**PREPARATION FOR THE 4th SESSION OF
THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS
AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (NCSR)**

6 to 10 March 2017, London, United Kingdom

References:

- A. IHO CL 13/2016 dated 10 March - *Report on the 3rd Session of the IMO Sub Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR3)*
- B. IHO CL11/2017 dated 6 February – *Report on the 97th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee*
- C. IHO CL 24/2016 dated 25 May - *Report on the 96th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee*
- D. IHO CL 67/2016 dated 20 December - *Consideration of port State control issues related to ECDIS carriage and operation*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the 4th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 4) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will take place from 6 to 10 March 2017 at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.
2. The provisional agenda for NCSR 4 (NCSR 4/1/Rev.1) includes a significant number of items of interest to IHO Member States, namely:
 - 3 *Routeing measures and mandatory ship reporting systems;*
 - 5 *Interconnection of NAVTEX and Inmarsat SafetyNET receivers and their display on Integrated Navigation Display Systems;*
 - 6 *Guidelines associated with multi-system shipborne radionavigation receivers dealing with the harmonized provision of PNT data and integrity information;*
 - 7 *Additional modules to the Revised Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation Systems (INS) (resolution MSC.252(83)) relating to the harmonization of bridge design and display of information;*
 - 8 *Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment;*
 - 9 *Revised Guidelines and criteria for ship reporting systems (resolution MSC.43(64));*
 - 10 *Performance Standards for shipborne GMDSS equipment to accommodate additional providers of GMDSS satellite services;*
 - 11 *Updating of the GMDSS master plan and guidelines on MSI (maritime safety information) provisions;*

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- 12 *Draft Modernization Plan of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);*
- 13 *Analysis of developments in maritime radiocommunication systems and technology;*
- 14 *Review SOLAS chapter IV and appendix (Certificates: Forms P, R and C) to accommodate additional mobile satellite systems;*
- 16 *Response to matters related to ITU World Radiocommunication Conference;*
- 18 *Developments in GMDSS satellite services;*
- 27 *Any other business; and*
- 28 *Consequential work related to the new Polar Code.*

3. On behalf of the IHO, and in accordance with the arrangements agreed with the relevant IHO Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups, the Secretariat has submitted or co-sponsored papers related to items 8, 11, 12 and 27. As it is represented in the related groups, the IHO has also contributed to the report submitted under agenda items 7 and 16. The list of the relevant documents is provided at Annex A.

4. Member States are encouraged to liaise with and brief their national delegations at NCSR 4 on the issues of relevance to the IHO. They are invited, in particular, to take into consideration the comments summarized in Annex B, related to the documents submitted under agenda items 11, 12 and 27.

5. IHO Member States intending to be represented at NCSR 4 are invited to indicate to the Secretariat at cl-lc@iho.int (copy to adso@iho.int) the name and e-mail of their representative(s) to facilitate coordination at the meeting, if and as appropriate.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO

Director

Annexes:

Annex A *List of NCSR 4 documents submitted or co-sponsored by the IHO or including an IHO contribution.*

Annex B *Comments to be considered by IHO Member States when briefing their national delegation at NCSR 4*

**List of NCSR 4 documents submitted or co-sponsored by the IHO
or including an IHO contribution**

Agenda Item 7 - Additional modules to the Revised Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation Systems (INS) (resolution MSC.252(83)) relating to the harmonization of bridge design and display of information

NCSR 4/7 - Report of the Correspondence Group on the Development of additional modules to Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation System (INS)

Agenda Item 8 - Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment

NCSR 4/8 - Development of guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment

NCSR 4/8/1 - Development of the IHO S-100 Framework

Agenda Item 11 - Updating of the GMDSS master plan and guidelines on MSI (maritime safety information) provisions

NCSR 4/11/1 - Outcome of the eighth session of the IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC)

Agenda Item 12 - Draft Modernization Plan of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

NCSR 4/12 - Report of the Correspondence Group on the draft of the Modernization Plan of the GMDSS

NCSR 4/12/5 - Comments on the Report of the Correspondence Group on Modernization Plan of the GMDSS

Agenda Item 16 - Response to matters related to ITU World Radiocommunication Conference

NCSR 4/16 - Report of the twelfth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime radiocommunication matters

Agenda Item 27 – Any other business

NCSR 4/27 - Proposal to activate the IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM)

NCSR 4/27/5 - Report on monitoring of ECDIS issues by the IHO

**Comments to be considered by IHO Member States when briefing
their national delegation at NCSR 4**

Agenda Item 11 - Updating of the GMDSS master plan and guidelines on MSI (maritime safety information) provisions

As discussed at the 8th meeting of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) and following an oral request at the 97th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), as reported in Reference B, document NCSR 4/11/1 invites the Sub-Committee to reconsider the provisions related to the approval and entry into force of amendments to the documentation related to Maritime Safety Information (MSI). Currently, amendments approved by the MSC are notified to all concerned with at least 12 months' notification, coming into force on the 1 January of the following year. Noting the nature of these operational manuals, which are being updated in line with the current agreed practice and time cycle between the IHO and IMO, it is proposed that future in-force dates be considered on a case by case basis, subject to the nature of the proposed amendments, and that they could be within 6 months of approval by the MSC, if appropriate. IHO Member States, particularly those acting as NAVAREA Coordinators, are invited to liaise with their national maritime administrations to consider supporting the proposal.

Agenda Item 12 - Draft Modernization Plan of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

The IHO contributed to the Correspondence Group (CG) on the draft of the Modernization Plan of the GMDSS through participation in the IMO/ITU Expert Group and through the NAVAREA Coordinators via their national maritime administrations rather than directly. The IHO Secretariat sought comment on the CG report (see NCSR 4/12) from the WWNWS-SC, in particular from the NAVAREA Coordinators. The comments received indicate support, in general, for the proposed draft Modernization Plan of the GMDSS; however, a number of observations and concerns were expressed, which are articulated in document NCSR 4/12/5. IHO Member States, particularly those acting as NAVAREA Coordinators, are invited to liaise with their national maritime administrations to consider supporting the comments.

Agenda Item 27 - Any other business

Activation of the IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling

In accordance with the outcome of the 96th session of the MSC (see Reference C), the Secretariat developed, in liaison with the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), a proposal to activate the IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM). The submission (see NCSR 4/27) is co-sponsored by Brazil, Norway, South Africa, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), and the International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA). A number of other delegations, including Australia, Canada, Italy, Netherlands and the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM), have indicated their intention to consider supporting the proposal at the meeting. As agreed by the HSSC at its 8th meeting (November 2016), IHO Member States are invited to liaise with their national maritime administrations to consider:

- supporting the submission at the meeting,
- nominating representatives to the HGDM, and
- nominating candidates for chairing the HGDM¹.

¹ According to the terms of reference agreed by the MSC, the HGDM should be chaired by an IMO Member State.

Revision of IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 - ECDIS - Guidance for Good Practice

As agreed at NCSR 3 (see Reference A), the IHO intends to withdraw Edition 6.0 of Publication S-52 - *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS*, Edition 3.4 of S-52 Annex A - *IHO Presentation Library for ECDIS* and Edition 2.0 of Publication S-64 - *IHO Test Data Sets for ECDIS* on 31 August 2017. Considering that some items of IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 - *ECDIS - Guidance for good practice* related in particular to operating anomalies identified with ECDIS will no longer be relevant, document NCSR 4/27/5 invites the Sub-Committee to consider the merit of revising the Circular in connection with the possible development of port State control guidelines on ECDIS (see Reference D).