

**PRESENTATION TO THE 17TH MEETING OF THE MESO AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
BELEM, BRAZIL 14 TO 17 DECEMBER 2016**

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the IMO Secretary General, Mr. Kitack Lim, to convey best wishes for the success of this 16th meeting of the MESO American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission and convey thanks to the MACHC for its invitation to participate.

Today's presentation will focus on the material decisions out of the 3rd Session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (NCSR) and developments in the region.

**3RD SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (NCSR)**

Routeing Measures and Mandatory Ship Reporting Systems

Model document templates for ships' routeing and reporting system proposals

The Sub-Committee noted the information provided by the IMO Secretariat on the Model document templates for ships' routeing and reporting system proposals and, in particular, that these templates could be downloaded in Word format from the IMO website at the following link: www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Navigation/Pages/ShipsRouteing.aspx.

The Sub-Committee recalled that these templates were meant to be used by Member Governments intending to submit a proposal for ships' routeing or a ships reporting system, along with the provisions in SOLAS regulations V/10 and V/11, the *General provisions on ships' routeing* (resolution A.572(14), as amended), the *Guidelines and criteria for ship reporting systems* (resolution MSC.43(64), as amended by resolutions MSC.111(73) and MSC.189(79)), the *General principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements* (Resolution A.851(20)), and the *Guidance note on the preparation of proposals on ships' routeing systems and ship reporting systems* (MSC.1/Circ.1060, as amended). It was further recalled that Member Governments were recommended to use all guidance in complementarity and none of these alone.

Guidance on amendments to existing IMO adopted ships' routeing systems

The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to paragraph 3.17 of the *General provisions on ships' routeing* (Resolution A.572(14)), as amended, which stated: "A routeing system, when adopted by IMO, shall not be amended or suspended before consultation with, and agreement by, IMO unless local conditions or the urgency of the case require that earlier action be taken." The intention of this requirement was to ensure consistency and predictability in routeing measures and the charting of such measures, particularly with regard to Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs).

Accordingly, the Chairman urged Member Governments to abide by this requirement and inform the Organization of any planned changes to an IMO-adopted routeing measure so that the formal procedures for amendments were followed in line with the *General provisions on ships' routeing*.

AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ON SHIPS' ROUTEING (RESOLUTION A.572(14)) ON ESTABLISHING MULTIPLE STRUCTURES AT SEA

The Sub-Committee recalled that MSC 95 had agreed to include, in the 2016-2017 biennial agenda of the NCSR Sub-Committee and the provisional agenda for NCSR 3, an output on "Amendment to the *General provisions on ships' routeing* (Resolution A.572(14)) on establishing multiple structures at sea", with a target completion year of 2016 (MSC 95/22, paragraph 19.8).

The Sub-Committee considered the proposal by Denmark and the Netherlands (NCSR 3/4) providing a draft text for a new paragraph in the *General provisions on ships' routeing* (resolution A.572(14)), as amended) (GPSR), addressing the necessity to ensure safety of navigation when planning and establishing a concentration of multiple objects at sea in relation to (newly) established routeing measures.

The Sub-Committee noted with appreciation the supporting Assessment Framework for Defining Safe Distances between Shipping Lanes and Offshore Wind Farms, provided by the Netherlands (NCSR 3/INF.9).

General support was expressed with regard to the draft amendments to the GPSR. However, recognizing the need for some minor modifications and clarifications, the Sub-Committee agreed to refer document NCSR 3/4 to the Navigation Working Group for finalization.

The Sub-Committee approved amendments to the *General provisions on ships' routeing* (Resolution A.572(14), as amended) on establishing multiple structures at sea, as set out in annex 5, and invited the Maritime Safety Committee to adopt them with a view to the Assembly's subsequent confirmation.

Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment

The Sub-Committee recalled that MSC 95 had agreed to include, in the 2016-2017 biennial agenda of the NCSR Sub-Committee and the provisional agenda for NCSR 3, an output on "Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment", with a target completion year of 2017 (MSC 95/22, paragraph 19.12.5).

The Sub-Committee noted the information provided by IEC (NCSR 3/6, paragraph 4) on the publishing of relevant IEC standards related to the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays.

The Sub-Committee also noted relevant information provided by Australia et al. (NCSR 3/28/1) on work undertaken by Australia, the Republic of Korea and some international organizations in 2015 for the development of guidance on the Standardized (or S) Mode of operation of navigation equipment.

The Sub-Committee had for its consideration information submitted by:

- .1 IHO (NCSR 3/9) on developments in IHO related to the contribution of the S-100 framework to the harmonized display of navigation information; and
- .2 Norway (NCSR 3/9/1) providing comments and proposals on the development of *Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment*.

The information and proposals contained in both documents were supported in general, recognizing the importance of harmonizing the display of information on board ships to reduce human errors and to contribute to the safety of navigation. The need for coordination between related activities conducted by IHO and IMO was highlighted, including the opportunity of activating the IMO/IHO Harmonization group on Data Modelling, which had been previously authorized by MSC 90.

After some consideration, the Sub-Committee invited Norway to coordinate a joint proposal from interested Member Governments and international organizations to NCSR 4 containing draft *Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment*.

Aids to Navigation

Following discussions on e-Navigation, the Sub-Committee approved a draft MSC circular *Guideline on Software Quality Assurance and Human-Centred Design for e-navigation*, and agreed that the guideline did not cover any issues related to the human element or training, and agreed to send the guideline for consideration by the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW). MSC 95 approved MSC.1/Circ.1512 on *Guidelines on Software Quality Assurance and Human Centred Design for e-navigation*.

Performance Standards for Multi-System Shipborne Navigation Systems

The Sub-Committee approved the draft MSC resolution on *Performance standards for multi-system shipborne radionavigation receivers* and invited the 95th session of the MSC to adopt it. Taking into account that these performance standards would be complemented by guidelines, the Sub-Committee agreed that multi-system shipborne radionavigation receivers installed on or after 31 December 2017 should conform to these performance standards.

At MSC 95 resolution MSC.401(95) *Performance standards for multi-system shipborne radionavigation* was adopted.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Senior Maritime Administrators Workshop

The Senior Maritime Administrators in the Caribbean meet every two years primarily to be updated on the latest information on current and future developments at IMO, facilitate the exchange of information between Caribbean administrations and identify their technical assistance needs for consideration at the Technical Cooperation Committee Meetings for an upcoming biennium.

Next year's meeting to be held in February 2017 in Barbados, Caribbean States are expected to continue consideration of:

- .1 the establishment of a national framework for hydrographic services in order to meet the mandatory obligations of SOLAS Chapter V - Regulation 9;
- .2 research the feasibility of the establishment of a regional hydrographic office; and
- .3 becoming members of the Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) and the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).

Additionally, a High-level Symposium for Ministers responsible for maritime administration will follow the Senior Maritime Administrators Workshop to further consider matters out of the last High-level Symposium held in 2013.

IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)

The Commission may wish to be aware that a number of Caribbean States are scheduled to be audited under IMSAS during 2017/2018. As part of the provision of support to Member States, the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) will deliver a workshop in early 2017 to assist Governments who would be in the process of preparing for the audit.
