

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

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING COURSE  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Date of report:** 11 October 2016

**Course:** MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING

**Date:** 16-18 August, 2016

**Venue:** St Jame's Club, Morgan Bay, Saint Lucia

**Instructors:** Mr. Bill VAN-DEN-BERGH (United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, UK) and Mr. Christopher JANUS (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA)

**Instructional Support:** Mr. Christopher ALEXANDER (Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, Director of Maritime Affairs)

**Opening Address:** Mr. Christopher ALEXANDER (Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, Director of Maritime Affairs).

**Administrative Support:** Ms. Thecla JOSEPH (Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority)

**Participants (20):** Anguilla, Guatemala, Belize, Haiti, Barbados, Saint Kitts, Panama, Grenada, Suriname, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Saint Vincent, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Saint Lucia (5) (**Annex A**)

**Introduction**

On 16-18 August 2016, a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Training Course to benefit countries in the area of influence of the Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 organizing 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 United States (NAVAREA IV Coordinator) is responsible for the sea areas covered by the MACHC and controls 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.

## **Objective**

The objective of the course was to increase the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA IV Coordinator and, ultimately, to emphasize the importance of establishing expertise in the countries within this NAVAREA to fulfill the role of National Coordinators. To achieve this, the course provided 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 MSI 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 received instructional 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, 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 United Kingdom Hydrographic Office graciously provided charts of the Northwest Approaches to Saint Lucia, Southern Martinique to Saint Vincent, and Saint Lucia 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 made during this training effort and validated the course content and instruction as being both appropriate and effective.

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, represented by Mr. Christopher Alexander, provided an outstanding presentation. He supplied a brief history and overview of St Lucia's maritime capabilities, types of equipment used, status of aids to navigation, and international partnering. It was very well received by the students.

### **Instruction**

Mr. JANUS acted as course leader supported by Mr. VAN-DEN-BERGH, who 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 is now their responsibility to share their knowledge and it was stressed that they are expected to become the trainers for the personnel in their administrations who are responsible for gathering, analyzing, 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 its 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.

In alignment with the specific IMO requirements that NAVAREA and Coastal Warnings 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, all participants had an outstanding competency level in the English language thus ensuring that then instructors achieved all teaching goals.

It is disappointing to report that the participants from Colombia, Bolivia and one from Barbados were, unfortunately, unable to attend. Conversely, there was a participant from Costa Rica that attended, which was unexpected. Nevertheless, the ratio of 20 students from 16 countries provided excellent representation from MACHC.

### **Facilities / Support**

The instruction took place in a comfortable, very well-equipped conference room at the St. Jame's Club Resort and the presentation facilities were outstanding. Students had complimentary Wifi both in the conference room and in their personal room. The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Port Authority printed all the required documents and provided excellent support far exceeding expectations. Accommodation and all meals for the students were at the St. Jame's Club Resort. For future courses, the IHO should strive to make similar arrangements. They provide, by far, the most conducive learning environment, facilitate working relationships, and, more importantly, make it easy to form lasting friendships.

### **Acknowledgements**

The CBC of the IHO financially supported the course for both the students and instructors. For the previous five courses, the IHO provided financial support for the instructors and this should continue. Instructor funding ultimately makes the course possible not to mention a success.

### **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 79% of answers rated at Good or Very Good. This score is lower than previous courses and is not indicative of the course's success, as the survey indicates it was highly successful. However, as with all performance measures, there is benefit from capturing this type of data. The instructors realized that Practical Exercise #2, on day three, yielded eight of nine incorrect responses. All practical exercises will be reviewed prior to the next offering and adjusted to maximize learning and the transfer of knowledge.

It now becomes the responsibility of the participants to go back to their organizations and use their increased awareness and knowledge of the WWNWS in order to improve the flow of MSI to their respective NAVAREA Coordinators and ultimately fulfill the role of National Coordinators within their countries in the future.

The course feedback (**Annex C**) for this training course confirms the overall success of this mission. In closing, the WWNWS 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 held September 4-6, 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa for Member States of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC), which will be the 16th First Phase Capacity Building module. In addition, there are two courses planned for 2017, but have yet to be confirmed, in the Meso American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) and North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC).*

Course photograph



**ANNEX A**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE, MORGAN BAY, SAINT LUCIA**

**Instructors:**

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Org.</b>	<b>Rank/ Title</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
	JANUS	Christopher	USA	NGA	Mr	christopher.G.Janus@nga.mil	+ 1 571 5576684
	VAN-DEN-BERGH	Bill	UK	UKHO	Mr	William.Van-Den-Bergh@UKHO.gov.uk	+ 44 1823 483661

**Participants:**

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Country Organisation</b>	<b>Rank/ Title</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
1	HAZELL	Rawle	Anguilla	Mr	Rawle.Hazell@gov.ai	+(264) 497-2651
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3	MCCORD	Martin	Belize	Mr.	mmcord@portauthority.bz	+(501)-223-0714
4	CHERISTIN	Frenold	Haiti	Mr.	frenoldcheristin@yahoo.fr	+509-2816-1630
5	FERGUSSON	George	Barbados	Mr.	kfergusson@barbadosport.com	+2464346100
6	EDMEADE	Wayne	Saint Kitts	Mr.	Maritimeaffairs@yahoo.com	+18694667032 ext 243
7	MONTILLA ALZAMORA	Rafael	Panama	Mr.	rmontilla@amp.gob.pa	

8	NOEL	Ian	Grenada	Mr.	allauno@hotmail.com	+1473-440-7678 (ext.222)
9	SEEDO	Odinga	Suriname	Mr.	oseedo@mas.sr	+597 476733 (ext 242)
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18	JUSTIN	Lazarene	Saint Lucia	Mr.	lazarene.justin@slaspa.com	+(758) 457-6100 ext. 1051
19	FERRARI	Seon	Saint Lucia	Mr.	seon.ferrari@govt.lc	+(758) 725-1808
20	GEORGE	Nadine	Saint Lucia	Ms.	georgen88@yahoo.com	+(758) 456-3870

## ANNEX B

## SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE

<b>IHO MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE</b>				
<b>SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE – SAINT LUCIA 16-18 AUGUST 2016</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>16 August</b>	<b>17 August</b>	<b>18 August</b>
0900-1000	<b>First session</b>	Welcome	Guest Speaker: Mr. Christopher Alexander, Director of Maritime Affairs Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority	Practical exercise Day 2 review Message formatting
		Administration		Chart updating & liaison with charting HO
		Introduction of participants		
1000-1015	Coffee			
1015-1230	<b>Second session</b>	Introduction to GMDSS	National Coordinator Presentation	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”
		Introduction to WWNWS	National Coordinator Requirements	
		Introduction to MSI	NAVAREA IV NAVTEX/SafetyNET Coverage	
			MSI Manual: How to format Navigation Warnings	
1230-1400	Lunch			
1400-1530	<b>Third session</b>	Introduction to SafetyNET System	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”
		Introduction to NAVTEX System		
1530-1545	Coffee			
1545-1700	<b>Fourth session</b>	WWNWS Guidance Documents	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Practical Exercise Review
				Lessons Learned
				Closing Remarks



## ANNEX C

### MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE – MORGAN BAY, SAINT LUCIA - STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Organized	17	3			20
Right length	12	7			19
The course was too basic		1	17	2	20
Presenters understandable	14	5			19
Instructors were prepared	18	2			20
Practical exercises were helpful	18	2			20
Breaks were the right length	13	7			20
I understand what WVNWS is	14	6			20
I understand my role & responsibility	14	6			20
I feel comfortable sending MSI	14	6			20
I feel this class was well worth my time	16	4			20
Guest speaker was relevant	9	10	1		20

#### Comments

1. It was a great learning experience. The host as well as the trainers were great.
2. Chris and Bill were great and their instruction. They were well-spoken and clear. Literature and charts were well set out. Host country provided excellent hospitality and was very helpful.
3. The course was very informative. I gained a vast amount of knowledge and also an appreciation for the importance of MSI.
4. Workshop was very insightful. Instructors were very knowledgeable. Practical exercises helped participants to grasp the concepts of the WVNWS.
5. The course exceeded my expectations. Congratulations to the organizers. All was very good.
6. Friendly people, friendly environment. Learned and had fun also.
7. The organization was great and the course material helped to understand the importance of MSI.
8. In general, everything was good. We learned a lot of things about MSI. Congratulations to the MACHC for that initiative. When the course returns, it will be a pleasure to send others from our organization.