

8TH SESSION OF THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Remote virtual meeting, 19 – 23 April

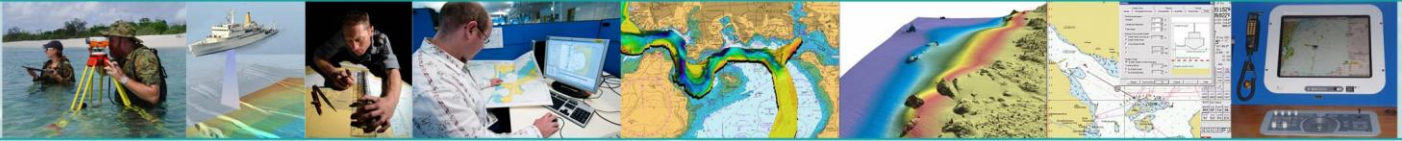
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021

Task 1.1.8.4	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including Attendance of NCSR-SC meeting
--------------	---

The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) is a subordinate body of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The 8th Session of the Sub-Committee (NCSR 8) was held as a remote virtual meeting from 19 to 23 April 2021. The IHO was represented by Director Abri Kampfer, Assistant Director David Wyatt and Mr Christopher Janus, the Chair of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC). Several representatives of Hydrographic Offices also attended the meeting as a member of their national delegation.

NCSR 8 invited the MSC to approve the holding of a meeting of the Experts Group on Ships' Routing in advance of the plenary session of NCSR 9, to give preliminary consideration to all proposals submitted to NCSR 9 under the agenda item on "Routing measures and mandatory ship reporting systems", and to advise the Sub-Committee on any necessary measures and/or systems to be adopted. The IMO Secretariat advised that the intention was to hold the meeting of the Experts Group as close as possible to the session of NCSR 9 and that this would be taken into consideration when preparing the programme of meetings for 2022. In addition, the Secretariat advised that the deadlines for submission of documents and proposals would not be changed and would be maintained as part of the arrangements for the session of NCSR 9, including the preparation of the preliminary assessment of proposals produced by the Chair and the procedures set out in MSC.1/Circ.1608.

With respect to navigation matters, the NCSR 8 noted the information provided in the IHO document reporting on ECDIS issues, and supported by Canada, and invited interested Member States and international organizations to contribute to the work of IHO in the preparation of amendments to resolution MSC.232(82) and MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1. Supporting views were expressed indicating support for the implementation of the IHO's S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model and the recognition of S-101 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) for ECDIS, emphasizing also the need to align the work schedule of the IMO with that of IHO on this matter to ensure implementation of S-100 product specifications by 2024, with a transitional phase up to 2030.



In regard to Communications and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) matters, the Sub-Committee considered the report of the intersessional meeting of the Communications Working Group, which was held remotely from 7 to 13 April 2021, and agreed to the draft amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, with a view to approval by MSC 104 and subsequent adoption by MSC 105.

The Sub-Committee also agreed to the:

- i. draft MSC circular on *Participation of non-SOLAS ships in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and guidance on the development of training materials for GMDSS operators on non-SOLAS ships*, to be disseminated as MSC.1/Circ.803/Rev.1; and
- ii. draft MSC circular on *Guidance for the reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information as required in the GMDSS*.

The NCSR 8 did not support the revised draft version of MSC.1/Circ.1613 - *Interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual* - submitted as draft Edition 1 of the manual, to be forwarded for consideration and approval by the MSC. It was decided that further work was required in light of the comments made by the UK, supported by France, Spain, Brazil, Japan and IMSO. The Sub-Committee did agree that revisions to the existing interim manual could be submitted to MSC 104 as a draft MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1 with a mature revision to be submitted for consideration to NCSR 9 as Edition 1 of the manual.

The Sub-Committee received reports from the Chairs of the following groups, in which the IHO is involved:

- IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel
- IMO Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Coordinating Panel
- WWNWS-Sub Committee
- EGC-API Correspondence Group

Taking into account the progress made at the session, the Sub-Committee prepared the proposed biennial agenda for the 2022-2023 biennium and the proposed provisional agenda for NCSR 9. The Revision of ECDIS Guidance for good practice (MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1) and amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards (Resolution MSC.232(82)) are also included in the proposed biennial agenda of the Sub-Committee for 2022-2023 and in the provisional agenda for NCSR 9 pending approval by MSC 104.

Mr Nigel Clifford, New Zealand, and Mr Alexander Schwarz, Germany, were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Sub-Committee for its 9th Session (NCSR 9) scheduled to be held in 2022. The Sub-Committee noted that, due to the uncertainty of which kind of meetings, physical or remote, could be held in 2022, there was no preliminary programme of meetings for 2022 available yet, but it is expected to be published shortly after C 125 in July 2021.