

16th Meeting of the Worldwide Navigation Warning Service Sub-Committee Hybrid, SHOA, Valparaiso, Chile 2 – 6 September 2024

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024

Task 3.5.1 Attendance of WWNWS-SC meeting

High level summary (can be used for posting on social media. Please provide concise lists in bullet point format):

- Presented the results of the annual NAVAREA self-assessments
- SPI 3.1.1 Percentage of Coastal States that are capable to provide maritime safety information (MSI) reported to IRCC16 was 89.6% against a 2026 target of 90% – Question over whether the current measure was an accurate reflection of the actual status of MSI provision within Coastal States.
- Report on the work to update C-55 and showcased the GIS database that shows status of MSI provision that will be made available on the IHO website in due course
- Report on MSI CB courses that have been delivered in Oman and Türkiye
- The group reflected on the discussions at MSC108 and NCSR11 – noting the approval at the former of the ECDIS Performance standards
- Group considered the development and implementation of S-124 and debated issues relating to its inclusion in the GMDSS. Group agreed to work on a roadmap for S-124 implementation to try and get clarity on this
- Group discussed the paper that had been submitted to MSC109 on developing guidelines for the use of IP based transfer methods for S-100 products such as S-124.

Details:

The 16th meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS) was held on 2 - 6 September 2024 in a hybrid format, hosted by the Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada (SHOA), Valparaiso, Chile. 85+ participants with 35 in person representatives from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and Satellite Communication companies attended as well. The meeting was led by Mr. Christopher JANUS (Chair WWNWS, United States) and Mr Trond SKI (Vice-Chair WWNWS, Norway). The IHO Secretariat was represented by Assistant Director Sam Harper.

Rear Admiral Arturo Oxley, Director of SHOA welcomed participants to Chile. Referencing the unique geographic location of Chile on a major fault line, and its inherent exposure to Tsunami inundation, he emphasized the importance of the WWNWS-SC to his nation and the region. He noted that the 16th meeting of the WWNWS-SC was being held in the 150th anniversary year of SHOA and welcomed participants to be part of this celebration. The Chair WWNWS-SC welcomed all participants and introduced himself. He provided brief background details to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to all present for making the effort to participate in person. He extended his thanks to Chile for hosting the meeting and remarked on the fantastic facilities and the effort that they had gone to. Updates to the group's Terms of Reference (ToRs) and work plans were also noted, ensuring alignment with the IHO's broader objectives.

The chair gave an update on IHO SPI 3.1.1 Percentage of Coastal States that are capable to provide maritime safety information (MSI) and reported that this was at 89.6% against a 2026 target of 90%. There was a question over whether the current measure was an accurate reflection of the actual status of MSI provision within Coastal States. He also reported on the work to update C-55 and showcased the GIS database that shows the status of MSI provision that will be made available on the IHO website in due course. Reports from the Capacity Building and MSI training course held in Oman and Türkiye were discussed as well as a developments in E-learning material provided by France.

The IMO provided a summary of the key outcomes from MSC108 and NCSR11. It was reported that MSC 108 approved updates to Maritime Services, including MSC.1/Circ.1610/Rev.1, to enhance the harmonization of e-navigation. It decided that a formal recognition framework for new terrestrial GMDSS services was unnecessary and that NAVDAT should not replace NAVTEX. The committee mandated the dissemination of MSI and SAR information through all operational RMSSs by December 31, 2026, urging Member States to implement Iridium SafetyCast as soon as possible. It also initiated revisions to resolutions A.707(17) and A.1001(25) to align with evolving satellite communication requirements. NCSR 11 focused on updates to the GMDSS Master Plan, encouraging migration to SafetyNET II and ensuring MSI is broadcast via Iridium SafetyCast. It proposed SOLAS amendments to require MSI and SAR dissemination through all RMSSs and finalized draft resolutions on GMDSS communication charges. The sub-committee advanced NAVDAT implementation, tasking the NAVTEX Coordinating Panel with developing a coordination scheme. Work also progressed on integrating the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) into SOLAS, with Japan leading a Correspondence Group. Additionally, South Korea was assigned to develop guidelines for Electronic Nautical Publications (ENP).

The outcomes from the 22nd meeting of the Document Review Working Group were discussed along with the agreed review schedule. A key focus was the BDMSS SafetyLink Manual and the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual. Key actions included adding the BDMSS SafetyLink Manual to the document review schedule, revising various IMO resolutions (A.705, A.706, and A.1051) for better clarity, and making structural updates to improve navigation warning dissemination, particularly for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) and Search and Rescue (SAR) information.

Briefings on the activities of the IMO NAVTEX and the IMO Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Coordinating panels were provided by their respective chairs as well as developments in the provision of mobile satellite GMDSS services from Inmarsat and Iridium.

The Chair of the EGC Panel provided a report, emphasizing the importance of NAVAREA coordinators' participation in meetings and explaining the group's mandate, operations, and the process of securing an EGC certificate. He highlighted the necessity of contingency arrangements, citing cases where they had been essential, and encouraged attendance at the next meeting. The IMO representative clarified that the GMDSS Master Plan allows for flexible scheduling and requested notification if alignment issues arise. A discussion followed on the challenges of contingency arrangements during total communication failures, but it was agreed that all NAVAREAs should implement them, as they are free and beneficial despite potential limitations. Inmarsat and Iridium gave updates on their respective systems and future planned developments. Both reiterated their offer of assistance and highlighted various training solutions that are available.

An update on the work of the Space Activity Advisory Group (SAAG) was provided, emphasizing the use of the optional recording template and recommending its continued promotion among coastal states. NAVAREA IV/XII reported on space operators' engagement with MSI and findings from the South Pacific Uninhabited Area (SPOA) study, highlighting that vessel operators adjust courses for small hazard areas but face challenges with large exclusion zones. The group recommended reminding MSI providers about the template and inviting the Space Activity Advisory Group (SAAG) to meet with space

operators. In terms of reporting relevant space weather events, it was recommended that collaboration between WWNWS-SC and AG-WWMIWS should be improved, space weather warnings should be standardized, and MSI documentation to be revised as needed.

Reports from the Capacity Building and MSI training course held in Oman and Türkiye were discussed as well as a developments in E-learning material provided by France.

S-124 was a key element of WWNWS16 with day three being dedicated to updates on the outputs of the relevant technical task teams established at WWNWS15. The next steps needed to meet the deadline for publishing S-124 Ed. 2.0.0 were discussed and the associated workplan was adjusted. Beyond the technical development of S-124, discussions were had about whether S-124 constituted MSI, and as a consequence whether it should be incorporated into the GMDSS. It was noted that it was likely that eventually S-124 would become recognised as MSI (as defined in the GMDSS and associated IMO instruments), however the existing dissemination methods would exist alongside it for the foreseeable future. Finally, the proposed new NCSR output for the development of guidance to establish a framework for data distribution and global IP-based connectivity was presented and discussed.

Upcoming meetings:

The next WWNWS-SC meeting, WWNWS-SC17, will be held in Washington DC, USA, from September 8-12 September, 2025, hosted by NGA.