

## Paper for Consideration by NSHC

### Proposal for establishment of a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Working Group

<b>Submitted by:</b>	UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	NSHC to endorse setting up a Working Group / Project Team for Maritime Safety Information
<b>Related Documents:</b>	N/A
<b>Related Projects:</b>	N/A

#### Summary

Within the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) North Sea Hydrographic Commission a gap has been identified due to the lack of a current Working Group specifically tasked to address the limitation of MSI engagement and collaboration.

#### Background

The delivery of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) has made some significant changes over the last few years, not only internally but also internationally. With the development of S-124, the revision of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO manual on Maritime Safety Information and the general trend in growing maritime operations, the co-operation and communication between MSI providers is becoming more and more important. Offshore Wind leasing Round 4 is set to deliver another 7 GW of power over the next decade by constructing at least 6 new windfarms<sup>1</sup> in the UK and Wales. Autonomous Operations is also an expanding sector<sup>2</sup>, and the UK space agency is planning to launch up to 150 rockets a year in and around UK and NAVAREA I waters<sup>3</sup>. Vessel traffic delivered 486 million metric tonnes of freight to the UK alone in 2019<sup>4</sup> and this has grown by 38% since last year. Interconnector projects<sup>5</sup>, Oil and Gas production<sup>6</sup> and aggregate extraction is also on the rise<sup>7</sup>, all of which demonstrate the need for engagement, improved communications and co-operation between state MSI providers. This coupled with the potential for new digital dissemination systems and the renewed push for resilience and information sharing has meant that Radio Navigation Warnings are busier than ever. With these evolutions, communication, sharing and the World Wide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) subcommittee encouraging development and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/round-4/>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877630/technology-innovation-route-map-document.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877630/technology-innovation-route-map-document.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/port-freight-quarterly-statistics-april-to-june-2021/port-freight-quarterly-statistics-april-to-june-2021>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/energy-policy-and-regulation/policy-and-regulatory-programmes/interconnectors>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ibisworld.com/united-kingdom/market-research-reports/gravel-sand-clay-extraction-industry/>

reliance planning, co-operation between Coastal States within NAVAREA I is vital.

It is there-fore suggested that to improve the delivery of new policy, communications and cooperation between NAVAREA I constituent MSI providers, that we create a working group to better engage with our partners abroad in a suitable forum, particularly to understand requirements, consistency and efficiency between all nations within our area of responsibility.

### **Analysis - Definition of the problem**

On behalf of the UK the UKHO acts as NAVAREA 1 coordinator. Part of this role is to engage and collaborate with national coordinators ensuring that concerns and opinions on standards and policy are voiced and adhered to.

Contact with costal states is currently done on an ad-hoc basis and given the number of developed costal states with the NAVAREA; little direct MSI engagement is achieved.

### **Objectives of the Working Group**

Engage with National co-ordinators to:

- To facilitate that the GMDSS MSI services in the NAVAREA are arranged in compliance with the regulations and recommendations of the IMO, IHO and other relevant organisations.
- To facilitate cooperation concerning technical and administrative matters related to the MSI service.
- To facilitate the exchange of information about events that could affect safety at sea within the NAVAREA.
- To facilitate the exchange of advice concerning all aspects of daily MSI work.
- To facilitate harmonization of new and existing methods that make MSI and other relevant information to shipping available.
- To evaluate and compile views on new and changed methods of providing MSI and to forward these to the relevant body.
- To exchange information about major planned operations at sea that are expected to affect international shipping in coastal waters of neighbouring countries.
- Improve and develop capacity building.

### **Proposed Members**

Membership to be open to member states and associate member states of the NSHC. Each member state may be represented by governmental organizations dealing with MSI and/or other relevant information to shipping.

The Baltic sub-area coordinator, the METAREA I Coordinator, the IMO Navtex Coordinating panel and other relevant official international bodies could also be invited to be members/observers as decided by the WG.

### **Conclusions**

Collaboration is needed by National Coordinators to address MSI developments and issues and to improve communication.

### **Recommendation**

The UK Hydrographic Office recommend that it is the right time for the NSHC to endorse setting up a new Working Group for Maritime Safety Information to improve the delivery of new policy, communications and cooperation between NAVAREA I constituent MSI providers, that we create a working group to better engage with our partners abroad in a suitable forum, particularly to understand requirements, consistency and efficiency between all nations within our area of responsibility.

### **Action Required of NSHC**

The NSHC is invited to:

- a. NSHC is invited to Note the paper.
- b. Endorse setting up a Maritime Safety Information Working Group (2022).