

WWNWS13 IHO Opening Remarks

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all participants of this WWNWS13 meeting and greetings from Monaco, and thank you Mr Chair for this opportunity to address the Working Group.

Unfortunately, and to everyone's regret, this is the second year in a row that the Sub Committee has met virtually, despite the attempt to hold a hybrid meeting as originally planned.

However, this will have no impact on the outcomes the meeting aims to achieve, given the many initiatives and projects currently underway, many of which are at an extremely advanced stage of implementation.

I am referring to the revision of the numerous documents related to Maritime Safety Information, the tight cooperation with the NAVAREA representatives, the collaboration with other International Organizations, such as IMO, WMO, IOC and IMSO, the progress in the drafting of the Product Specification on Navigational Warnings, the S-124 PS. And finally, the enormous activity of monitoring and contributing to training in the field of Maritime Safety Information.

The training sector is more important than ever within and outside the IHO, and it is increasingly important to monitor progress in the delivery of MSI training courses, not only through the support of individual IHO Member States, but also by involving the 15 Regional Hydrographic Commissions and the Regional Coordinators responsible for capacity building programmes within and between the Hydrographic Regions.

From this it is clear that the role of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub Committee is fundamental for the safety of navigation, as well as the standardization activity for the IHO, which represents one of its main objectives, finalized to promote uniformity in nautical charts and documents.

Proof of that is the increasing trend over the last five years with respect to the promulgation of navigational warnings. In fact, as you referred to the IRCC13 Mr. Chair, from 2016 to 2020, there was 14% increase, and you said it is more likely that it will only increase with S-124 and additional recognized mobile satellite services to support.

Mr Chair, let me say that the main role of the WWNWS-SC is internationally recognized to be responsible for studying and proposing new methods to

enhance the provision of navigational warnings to mariners at sea, facilitating the implementation of the major changes in procedures for dissemination of navigational warnings and providing appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State representatives.

I would like to wish you Mr Chair all the success in the important and prestigious role of Chairman of the WWNWS-SC, after the long and incredible heritage inherited by Peter Doherty who occupied the Chairmanship for 18 years.

A special thank goes to David Wyatt for the outstanding job he has performed in the last 9 years as Secretary of this Sub Committee, being this 13th meeting his last one as Secretary of WWNWS SC.

And, to all the participants, my best wishes for a fruitful meeting, full of interesting and proactive discussions.