

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

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING COURSE
SUMMARY REPORT**

Date of report: 25 October 2022

Course: MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION TRAINING

Date: 26-30 September, 2022

Venue: Hotel Capilla Del Mar, Bocagrande Cra 1 # 8 - 12, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Instructors: Mr. Christopher JANUS (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA) and Mr. Timothy STACY (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA)

Instructional Support: S2 David MINA (Dirección General Marítima Autoridad Marítima Colombiana), Colleen WELSH (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA)

Opening Address: Vice Admiral John Fabio Giraldo GALLO (Director General Marítimo, Dirección General Marítima Autoridad Marítima Colombiana)

Administrative Support: Mr. Dagoberto Uriel DAVID VITERI (Dirección General Marítima Autoridad Marítima Colombiana)

Participants (21): Colombia (11), Ecuador (2), Peru (2), Chile (2) Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Argentina, Uruguay, (**Annex A**)

Introduction

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Capacity Building Committee (CBC) in conjunction with the IHO's World-Wide Navigational Warning Service – Sub Committee (WWNWS-SC) conducted a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Training Course to primarily benefit countries in the area of influence of the South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (SEPRHC), South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAHC), and Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC).

This was the 25th 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 maritime safety information necessary to provide real-time situational awareness of safety critical information. The course covered the supplementary requirements to maintain and update existing charts and publications to

ensure the safe navigation of shipping as 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 necessary to facilitate the transmission of NAVAREA warnings as described in IMO Res. A.706(17).

The United States, as the NAVAREA IV/XII Coordinator, is responsible for sea areas covered by the MACHC. Chile and Peru as the NAVAREA XV and XVI Coordinators respectively, are responsible for sea areas covered by the SEPRHC. Lastly Argentina as the NAVAREA VI Coordinator is responsible for a portion of the sea areas covered by the SWAtHC. NAVAREA Coordinators control the broadcast of navigational warnings within its NAVAREA, making full and effective use of national broadcast facilities in keeping with the provisions of SOLAS. NAVAREA Coordinators have 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 NAVAREA Coordinators. The secondary objective, and equally important, was to provide the knowledge to establish and fulfill the role of National Coordinator. 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 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 (GMDSS), Maritime Safety Information, and the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. The instructors familiarized the students 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. The course covered in depth the role, responsibilities and requirements of National Coordinators, including the need to be informed of all events that could significantly affect the safety of navigation within its region. Training emphasized the importance to immediately assess all information upon receipt and decide whether to inform the NAVAREA Coordinator.

The course covered a five-day period, which included a day of instruction, a day of practical learning and two days of practical exercises. On the second day of the course, the Dirección General Marítima Autoridad Marítima Colombiana (DIMAR) provided transportation to and from the NAVTEX station in Santa Marta, Colombia. This visit allowed students to see a practical use case of the information provided in the first day of the course. DIMAR also graciously provided charts of Cartagena and approaches, which the students used to evaluate the validity and applicability of MSI, and decide if the data warranted a NAVAREA or Coastal Warning. On the third day, the participants worked in conjunction with the instructors to analyze MSI received, mirroring watch room operations in a controlled and structured environment. The fourth day had participants split into three-person teams. Each team played the role of NAVAREA Coordinator and worked independently in a rehearsed real-time operations room scenario with multiple categories of MSI to analyze. This allowed the instructors to see the progress each student made during this training effort and validate the course content and instruction as being both appropriate and effective. The last day of the course consisted of a presentation from The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) highlighting how MSI fits in to the greater hydrographic and bathymetric world.

DIMAR, represented by Dagoberto Uriel DAVID VITERI, provided outstanding support with respect to course coordination, instructional support and accommodations. Vice Admiral John Fabio Giraldo GALLO (Director General, Dirección General Marítima Autoridad Marítima Colombiana [DIMAR]) provided the opening remarks. S2 David Mina supplied a brief overview of DIMAR's maritime capabilities, its international partnering, and the importance of MSI to the Caribbean region and all NAVAREAs.

Instruction

Mr. Chris JANUS (WWNWS-SC Chairman), acted as course leader supported by Mr. Timothy STACY who shared the presentation duties. Each instructor had varying degrees of experience, skill and knowledge with managing and staffing a NAVAREA operations room. Ms. Colleen WELSH (USA- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) also assisted during the practical exercises. She attended the course to learn the material, training structure, and to become a certified course instructor.

The instructors encouraged a high level of interaction, which contributed to a relaxed classroom atmosphere and more individual participation. 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 depth to the proceedings. It 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. The instructors encouraged each administration present 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 the participants received a flash drive, courtesy of the IHO, containing copies of all the presentations and practical exercises. Their responsibility upon returning home was to share their knowledge and become the trainers for the personnel in their administrations who are responsible for gathering, analyzing, drafting, and promulgating navigational warnings for the coastal area of their country.

Participants / Language

The IHO Capacity Building Coordinator (CBC) made specific requests to the member states in their 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 the IHO CBC successfully achieved that.

In alignment with the specific IMO requirements that NAVAREA and Coastal Warnings must be provided in English, the IHO CBC requested that attendees should have basic written and oral understanding of the English language. For this course, most participants had a minimal competency level in the English language. However, this language gap was reduced by using technology and the hard work of the NAVAREA XV Coordinator CF Carlos Zuniga (Servicio Hydrografico Y Oceanografico de La Armada de Chile) who took the time to translate all practical exercises into Spanish. This provided the students a realistic scenario where source information would be received in Spanish, but the navigational warning would need to be translated into English for promulgation by the NAVAREA Coordinator. LCDR Zuniga provided an invaluable service which ensured a successful course.

All participants arrived as scheduled. The ratio of 21 students from 8 countries provided excellent representation from the SEPRHC, SWAtHC, and MACHC.

Facilities / Support

Students and instructors stayed at the Hotel Capilla Del Mar, Cartagena. The accommodations were outstanding in every category. The instruction took place in a comfortable well-equipped conference room at the hotel. Students had complimentary Wi-Fi both in the training room and in their hotel room. DIMAR printed all the required documents and provided excellent support, including transportation to and from airport and the Santa Marta NAVTEX Station. The Hotel Capilla Del Mar provided meals for the students and instructors. For future courses, the IHO should strive to make similar arrangements, which provided the most conducive learning environment, facilitated working relationships, and, more importantly, made it easy to form lasting friendships.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the United States for funding the transportation and lodging all three of its instructors

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 it fully met all the objectives. The analysis of the final practical exercises recorded the score of 88%, which means 88% of the answers rated at Good or Very Good. This score reflects changes, input from previous course surveys and instructor notes, to improve training and course material.

At the closing of the course the instructors reminded the students of their responsibility to go back to their Administrations and use their increased awareness and knowledge of the WNWNS to improve, and in some cases establish, the flow of MSI to their respective NAVAREA Coordinator and, ultimately, fulfill the role of National Coordinator within their country.

The course feedback (**Annex C**) confirms the overall success of this mission. In closing, the WNWNS is extremely pleased with the results of this training effort and looks forward to continuing its support as the course rotates to other IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

Next Planned Course

*The next confirmed course will be held in 2023 for Member States of the **North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)**, which will be the 26th First Phase Capacity Building module.*

Course photograph



ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE, CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Instructors:

	Surname	First Name	Country	Org.	Rank/ Title	E-mail:	Telephone
1	JANUS	Christopher	USA	NGA	Mr	Christopher.G.Janus@nga.mil	+571-557-6684
2	STACY	Timothy	USA	NGA	Mr	Timothy.E.Stacy@nga.mil	+571-557-1667

Participants:

	Surname	First Name	Country	Rank/ Title	E-mail:
1	REYES ALAVA	Jose Israel	Ecuador	Sgto.	Jose.reyes@inocar.mil.ec
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21	TAPIAS AVILES	Mario	Colombia	TS	Mtapia@dimar.mil.co
22	DAVID VITERI	Dagoberto	Colombia	Mr.	ddavid@dirmar.mil.co
23	WELSH	Colleen	USA	Ms.	Colleen.E.Welsh@nga.mil

**ANNEX B
SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE**

IHO MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE							
SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE – COLOMBIA (Date to be determined)							
Time	Session	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
0900-1030	First session	Welcome	Santa Marta Station	MSI Manual and drafting Navigational Warnings	Practical exercise Day 2 review Message formatting	GEBCO	
		Administration – Introduction of participants		Host Nation presentation	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”	GEBCO	
		WWNWS and GMDSS		NAVAREA Coordinator presentations			
1030-1045	Coffee break						
1045-1200	Second session	WWNWS and GMDSS	Santa Marta Station	WWNWS and Chart corrections	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”	GEBCO	
		What is MSI		Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings		Closure Director CIOH	
1200-1300	Lunch						
1300-1430	Third session	Enhanced Group Call	Santa Marta Station	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Practical Exercise “A day in the life of a National Coordinator”	Free afternoon	
		NAVTEX					
1430-1445	Coffee break						
1445-1700	Fourth session	National Coordinator requirements and practical training	Santa Marta Station	Practical Exercise Information assessment for Navigation Warnings	Lessons Learned		
		WWNWS Guidance Documents			Course Summary		

MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE – CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA - STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Question	Yes	No	Total
Are you currently involved with MSI?	20	4	24
If No, will you be involved with MSI in the future?	1	3	4

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Lessons were easy to understand	20	4			24
Instructors were knowledgeable/helpful	24				24
Practical exercises were helpful	24				24
I understand what the WVNWS is	23	1			24
I better understand my MSI roles and responsibility	21	3			24
I would feel comfortable sending MSI	19	3			23
I have a laptop and could support digital exercises	17	6			23
I would recommend this program to other maritime professionals	24				24

Comments

1. Excellent methodology for the workshop
2. It is very positive to carry out the practical workshop in a group, mixing different countries, since this allowed you to know the work of the other national coordinators in our area. I appreciate the invitation and am very thankful for this opportunity.
3. Great Course/Workshop.
4. Excellent instruction and practical international relations in the field of our work and personal relationships.
5. Thank you so much to the instructors and IHO/NAVAREA course coordinators, recommendation to provide the slides in a translated format.
6. Excellent course could the slides be provided in Spanish.