

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND
RESCUE
8th session
Agenda item 9

NCSR 8/9/6
11 February 2021
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release:

**DEVELOPMENTS IN GMDSS SERVICES, INCLUDING GUIDELINES
ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)**

**Outcomes of the twelfth session of the IHO World-Wide
Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC)**

Submitted by IHO

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document informs the Sub-Committee on matters discussed and decisions taken at the twelfth session of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee, which was held as a remote meeting from 1 to 3 September 2020

*Strategic direction,
if applicable:* 6

Output: 6.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 The twelfth session of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) Sub-Committee (WWNWS12) was held as a remote video teleconference (VTC) meeting, from 1 to 3 September 2020 under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Doherty (United States). The meeting was attended by 60 delegates from 21 IHO Member States, the Secretariat of IMO, the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) Directorate, the Chairs of IMO NAVTEX and IMO EGC Coordinating Panels, Inmarsat, Iridium, and Security of Navigation, Stabilisation, Advice and Training (inc AWNIS) (SONSAT) and the IHO Secretariat. The delegates included representatives of 17 NAVAREA Coordinators, one Sub-Area Coordinator and five National Coordinators.

WWNWS documentation

2 The work of the eighteenth meeting of the Document Review Working Group (DRWG) was reviewed, in particular the resultant outcomes of the discussions at the seventh session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 7) and the impact of the recognition of the Iridium satellite system on all the MSI documentation. Considerable post-meeting effort was directed to completing the final revisions of the Iridium SafetyCast service manual in preparation for submission to NCSR 8.

3 It was agreed that the DRWG19 meeting, which will be held the week after NCSR 8 as a remote event, will commence the review of the IMO NAVTEX Manual with the objective of preparing a final draft for consideration at WWNWS13 in 2021 and subsequent submission to NCSR 9 in 2022. All draft documents under development by WWNWS-SC are available via the WWNWS page of the IHO website.

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)/MSI briefing

4 The Sub-Committee received MSI self-assessment reports from all 21 NAVAREAs. A number of issues were highlighted, with which WWNWS-SC agreed to assist NAVAREA Coordinators, through the IHO Secretariat, to gain the support of National Coordinators in ensuring that all SOLAS MSI responsibilities were being met.

5 The IMSO Directorate provided a brief presentation on its activities and an update on work with the service providers to ensure compliance within the signed Public Service Agreements. The IMSO Directorate highlighted a number of ongoing issues, which were being addressed prior to declaring full operational capability of the Iridium SafetyCast service and noted the progress being made with NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators to have service agreements signed and complete the initial testing of the SafetyCast service.

6 NAVAREA Coordinators expressed their concerns over the potential escalating costs as a result of IMO's recognition of new mobile satellite service providers. Some indicated that they did not have the resources to utilize all systems and would therefore remain with their current contract until IMO documents mandated for them to use all recognized systems. It was felt that the recognition process had ignored the cost implications and the concerns repeatedly raised; it was generally felt that an alternative costing model needed to be developed, most likely to involve a cost sharing methodology across all IMO Member States.

7 The Chair of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel provided an update brief on the operational state of NAVTEX service provision, highlighting a number of changes in operational capability with new stations in operation, stations being recommissioned and stations non-operational. The Chair of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel also highlighted a number of NAVTEX service issues which needed to be considered by the WWNWS-SC, in particular the issue of overruns of the 10-minute time slots, which remains an ongoing concern, and incorrect message content, often not in accordance with the NAVTEX Manual and not confined to maritime safety information issues.

8 In order to improve the dissemination and integration of navigational warnings within bridge systems and shore systems via a digital format, WWNWS-SC has established a Project Team to draft a digital product specification based on IHO's S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model. S-100 as the acknowledged data model for e-navigation, utilizing numerators, denotes this specification as S-124. The S-124 Project Team (S-124PT) briefed the WWNWS-SC on the development progress as well as highlighting future implications on the technical infrastructure of the e-navigation as designed by IMO and to the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS). The WWNWS-SC noted the progress achieved by the S-124PT.

9 NAVAREA X (Australia), as Chair of the Enhanced Group Call Application Programming Interface Correspondence Group (EGC-API CG), provided a report and presentation on the progress of the EGC-API CG following its establishment at the eleventh meeting of WWNWS-SC (document WWNWS12/2/3/2). The EGC-API CG is tasked to develop a machine-to-machine standard to support the transfer of EGC shore-to-ship information, including its required messaging instructions, between certified and registered MSI providers (MSIP) and recognized mobile-satellite service (RMSS) providers. The Chair of the EGC-API CG noted that it was not to solve interoperability and interconnectivity challenges. The API will benefit the NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators who intend to integrate the transfer of machine-to-machine shore-to-ship EGC information into an information management system (or similar). However, they will be required to develop a user interface, error checking and train their staff. It was noted that there is no obligation on RMSS providers to make an API available.

10 The Chair of the EGC-API CG emphasized that the scope of work was limited to shore-to-ship information exchange and did not include shore-to-ship SAR-related information. Inmarsat noted that the standardized API would also be available to SAR providers if desired and they should contact the CG for further information and engagement. Organizations/partners may choose to develop those aspects in the future and take on that role, however it was outside of the EGC-API CG and WWNWS-SC areas of responsibility; despite this, the information and standards developed by the EGC-API CG are likely to be relevant and could be made available. Further, one RMSS provider advised that despite the scope of work not including shore-to-ship SAR-related information, the C codes for SAR-related information would be recognized by its system and broadcast.

MSI Capacity building training course

11 The WWNWS-SC discussed the MSI capacity building training effort and its development. The lack of qualified experienced trainers was highlighted and the proposed actions to generate regional trainers (Americas, Europe/Africa and Asia/Pacific) to assist the main trainers in the delivery of the course. The MSI courses conducted in 2020 were highlighted – Jakarta and Dominican Republic – and those approved by the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) for 2021.

Elections

12 Owing to the announced retirement of the current Chair, Mr. Peter Doherty, and the stepping down of the Vice-Chair, Mr. Trond Ski, elections were required for these positions. Mr. Chris Janus (United States) was unanimously elected as Chair and Mr. Trond Ski (Norway) was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Next meeting

13 It was proposed that a cautious approach should be taken in planning the next meeting, therefore it was agreed that WWNWS13 should be held at the IHO in Monaco, from 30 August to 3 September 2021, with the option for either a hybrid or wholly remote meeting to be considered. All NAVAREA Coordinators and National MSI Coordinators are encouraged to attend the meetings of the WWNWS-SC to broaden their experience and interact with each other. It was also agreed to investigate a further collocated meeting with WMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS) Committee.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

- 14 The Sub-Committee is invited to:
- .1 take note of the information provided in this report on the outcome of WWNWS12;
 - .2 invite relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers;
 - .3 note that MSI providers, should they implement Iridium SafetyCast services, are compelled to bear the burden of all additional costs, as a consequence of the approval by IMO Member States of the Iridium SafetyCast as an RMSS; and
 - .4 take any other action it considers appropriate.
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