

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

JOINT WMO-IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)
EXPERT TEAM ON MARITIME SAFETY SERVICES

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REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

(Submitted by International Hydrographic Organization)

IHO Structure

1. On the 1st January 2009 there was a major restructuring of the IHO Committee Structure. The IHO now has two main committees:

- The Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) which oversees the technical programme of the IHO; and
- The Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC) which oversees cooperation, co-ordination and capacity building efforts between States and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

A diagram showing this structure is at Annex A.

As part of this re-organization the Commission for the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW) was re-constituted as the World-wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-committee (WWNWS) under the direction of the IRCC.

WWNWS (formerly CPRNW) meetings

2. Since the ETMSSII meeting in Brazil the IHO CPRNW/WWNWS has met on 4 occasions:

- CPRNW9 – IHB, Monaco – 11-14 September 2007;
- CPRNW10 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 25-29 August 2008;
- WWNWS1 – IHB, Monaco – 18-21 August 2009; and
- WWNWS2 – Sydney, Australia – 9-13 August 2010.

WWNWS3 is provisionally scheduled to take place at the IHB in Monaco from 13 to 16 September 2011

The IHO is grateful to WMO / ETMSS for their contribution to these meetings which were attended by Mr Henri Savina (CPRNW 9 & 10 and WWNWS1) and Mr Alasdair Hainsworth (WWNWS2).

WWNWS Activities

3. The full reports of the meetings mentioned in 2 above, together with all submitted documents, are available on the IHO web site at: <http://www.iho.int/english/committees-wg/ircc/wwnws.html>. Each meeting received "Self Assessment" reports from NAVAREA Co-ordinators together with reports from the IMO Navtex Co-ordinating Panel, the IMO International SafetyNET Panel, WMO and Inmarsat Global Ltd.

The major activity in each of the meetings has been the ongoing holistic review of the WWNWS documentation. WWNWS established a WG to progress this work between meetings and this WG has met at IMO in the week following the COMSAR Sub-Committee meetings. WWNWS is grateful for the active participation of WMO/ETMSS representatives in these meetings. A detailed account of the status of the documentation is given in Annex B.

Considerable effort has also been directed to the establishment of the 5 new Arctic NAVAREAs/METAREAs. These are now undergoing testing as part of their Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and it is hoped that they will be declared to be at Full Operating Capability (FOC) on 1 June 2011. It is intended to organise an event at COMSAR 15 (7-11 March 2011) to mark this significant step forward in the dissemination of MSI.

Contingency Planning has been identified as an important issue. Co-ordinators need to have plans in place to ensure that MSI can continue to be delivered when failures occur in the primary means of supply. This topic has been added to the matters which Co-ordinators are asked to report on in their Self Assessments.

A Quality Management Survey questionnaire has also been included in the Self Area Assessments (since 2009) and the collated responses are included as a separate annex to the meeting report.

In 2005 an IMO COMSAR Circular on the broadcast of Tsunami warnings (COMSAR/Cir.36) was approved indicating the process for broadcasting such warnings within the GMDSS. The revision of the WWNWS documentation has included Tsunami warnings and the WWNWS Document Review WG intends to review COMSAR/Circ.36 at its next meeting with a view to preparing draft amendments or a recommendation for deletion of the Circular at COMSAR 16 in 2012.

The review of the WWNWS documentation has also included the matter of Piracy Warnings. Following a proposal from the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) IMO COMSAR developed a resolution (MSC.305 (87)) establishing a method whereby urgent information relating to Acts of Piracy and Counter-Piracy operations from military authorities could be both correctly and quickly broadcast by the WWNWS. The process is working well with numerous messages being transmitted.

IMO COMSAR is currently conducting a scoping exercise into the review of the GMDSS. WWNWS is anticipating making a significant contribution to the review once the extent of the review has been determined by IMO.

Capacity Building Training Courses continue to be delivered by the WWNWS Sub-committee. The course was developed by the USA (NAVAREAs IV and XII) and the UK (NAVAREA I) and is delivered by the US and UK with support from the NAVAREA Co-ordinator of the region in which the course is being delivered. The courses are delivered following a request from a Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC). The RHC boundaries are closely related to those of the NAVAREAs. The following courses have been delivered so far:

- 2007 Jamaica and Mozambique
- 2008 Spain
- 2009 Ghana and Oman

- 2010 Namibia and Australia
- 2011 Planned for Brazil and Caribbean

The Chairman of WWNWS, Mr Peter Doherty (USA-NGA), has prepared a WWNWS CD which contains a great deal of information on many aspects of MSI including all the publications and reports of WWNWS meetings. This CD is updated annually in advance of the next WWNWS Sub-Committee meeting.

The adoption by IMO of resolution A.1001 (25) laid the foundation for Service Providers, other than Inmarsat Global Ltd, to enter the GMDSS. Whilst there have been some expressions of interest no Providers have as yet made application to IMO.

Overrunning MSI Broadcasts

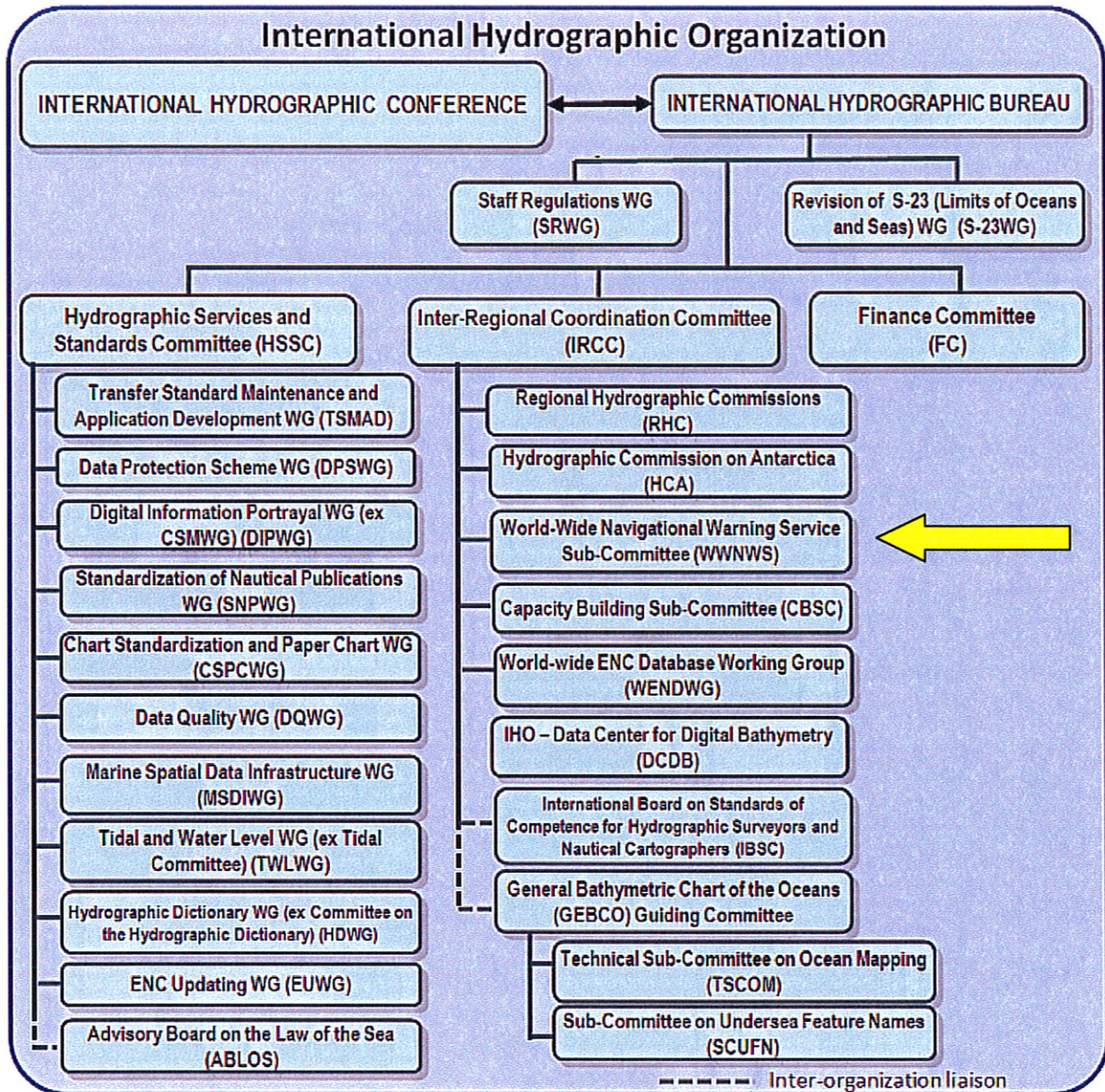
4. The WWNWS Sub-Committee continues to be concerned at the overrunning of some MSI broadcasts, particularly when transmitted by NAVTEX. The NAVTEX stations have a 10 minute slot to transmit their MSI and if a station overruns it can prevent ships receiving the phasing signal from the station transmitting in the subsequent time-slot.

A common, but not exclusive, source of this overrunning is the length of meteorological messages, especially forecasts. The WWNWS would very much appreciate anything that ETMSS can do to promote the use of standardised terminology and to reduce the length of these messages.

Action requested of ETMSSIII

5. ETMSSIII is requested to:

- Note this report;
- To continue to support the work of the IHO WWNWS Sub-Committee; and
- To assist in reducing the length of meteorological messages transmitted as MSI



This annex provides information on the status of all WWNWS guidance documentation:

- Resolution A.705(17), as amended, Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information - Review completed in 2007, approved by COMSAR 12 in 2008, adopted by MSC85 in 2008 and issued as MSC.1/Circ.1287. Entered into force 1 January 2010.
- Resolution A.706(17), as amended, World-Wide Navigational Warning Service - Review completed in 2007, approved by COMSAR 12 in 2008, adopted by MSC85 in 2008 and issued as MSC.1/Circ.1288. Entered into force 1 January 2010.
- Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information - Review completed in 2008, approved by COMSAR 13 in 2009, adopted by MSC86 in 2009 and issued as MSC.1/Circ.1310. Enters into force 1 January 2011.
- IHO Publication S-53 Manual on Maritime Safety Information – Adopted by IHO Member States as by IHB Circular Letters 70 and 84 /2008. This publication is maintained in line with the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information above.
- IMO International SafetyNET Manual - Review completed in 2009, approved by COMSAR 14 in 2010, adopted by MSC87 in 2010 and issued as MSC.1/Circ.1364. Enters into force 1 January 2012.
- IMO NAVTEX Manual – Review in progress completion expected 2010. It is planned to submit to COMSAR 15 in March 2011 for adoption by MSC 89 in May 2011 and expected entry into force on 1 January 2013.
- IMO resolution A.664(16), Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call Equipment (EGC). Review completed in 2009, approved by COMSAR 14 in 2010, adopted by MSC87 in 2010 as resolution MSC.306(87). Note: MSC.306(87) applies to equipment fitted after 1 July 2012, A.664(16) applies to equipment fitted before 1 July 2012.
- IMO resolution A.701(17) Carriage of Inmarsat EGC SafetyNET Receivers under the GMDSS. COMSAR 14 determined that this resolution was now obsolete as the information was contained within A.705(17) as amended and SOLAS Chapters IV and V. COMSAR instructed the IMO Secretariat to arrange for its deletion.
- IMO Guideline on operational procedures for the broadcast of maritime safety information concerning acts of piracy and counter-piracy operations. Approved by COMSAR 14 in 2010, adopted by MSC87 in 2010 as resolution MSC.305(87).
- COMSAR/Circ.36, Broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters. Approved by COMSAR 9 in 2005 and endorsed by MSC 80 in 2005. This Circular will be reviewed during the WWNWS Document Review WG in March 2011, further considered at WWNWS3 prior to submission to COMSAR 16 in 2012.
- Terms of Reference for the WWNWS Sub-Committee. Adopted by IHO Member States as per IHB CL 46/2009.
