



9TH SESSION OF THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Remote virtual meeting, 21 to 30 June

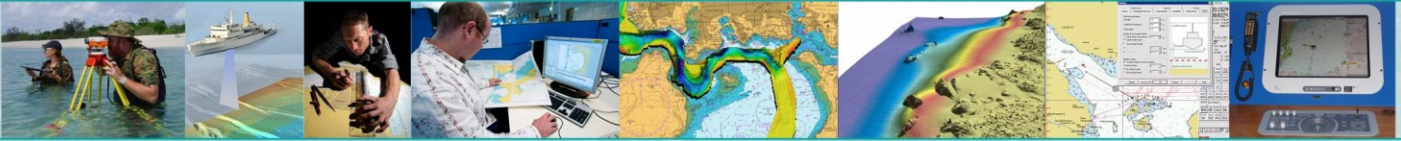
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 1.1.8.4	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including Attendance of NCSR-SC meeting

The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue is a subordinate body of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The 9th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) was held remotely from 21 to 30 June 2022, chaired by Mr N. Clifford (New Zealand). The Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee, Mr A. Schwarz (Germany), was also present. The session was attended by Members and Associate Members; representatives from the United Nations and specialized agencies; observers from intergovernmental organizations with agreements of cooperation; and observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status. The IHO was represented by Director Abri Kampfer, Assistant Director Sam Harper and Mr Christopher Janus, the Chair of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC). Several representatives of Hydrographic Offices also attended the meeting as a member of their national delegation.

Ships Routeing

The Sub-Committee noted that MSC 104, following the recommendation of NCSR 8, had approved the holding of a meeting of the Experts Group on Ships' Routeing in advance of the plenary session of NCSR 9 to give preliminary consideration to all proposals submitted to NCSR 9 under the agenda item on "Routeing measures and mandatory ship reporting systems", and to advise the Sub-Committee on any necessary measures and/or systems to be adopted. In this context, the Sub-Committee noted that the meeting of the Experts Group on Ships' Routeing was held remotely from 13 to 17 June 2022 and that its report would be considered. The Sub-Committee adopted the agenda and agreed to be guided in its work.

The Sub-Committee considered the documents submitted under the agenda item *Ships Routeing*, taking into account the preliminary consideration of the Experts Group on Ships' Routeing and the preliminary assessment of proposals on ships' routeing and ship reporting systems, and approved, with a view to adoption by MSC 106 (November 2022) and implementation six months after its adoption, the following:



- Amendments of existing TSS and associated measures "In the approaches to the ports of Odessa and Ilichevsk" and "Between the ports of Odessa and Ilichevsk", Ukraine.
- Establishment of a recommended route off Cape Shio-no-Misaki, Japan.
- Amendments of the area to be avoided in the region of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands off the coast of southern California and traffic separation scheme "In the Santa Barbara Channel".
- Establishment of a no anchoring area in the southern portion of Pulley Ridge off the coast of Florida.
- Recommendation on navigation for containerships in traffic separation schemes "Off Vlieland", "Terschelling-German Bight", "Off Friesland" and "German Bight western approach".

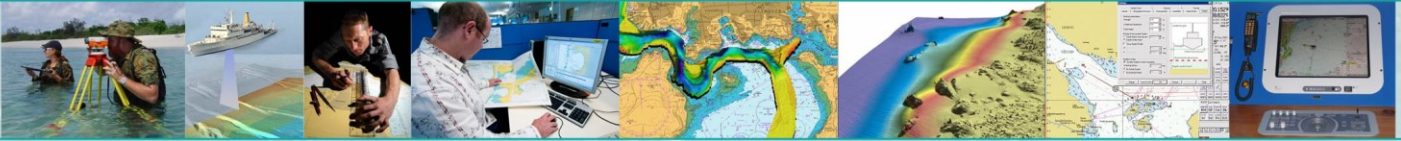
The Sub-Committee noted the consideration of the Experts Group on the workload of the Sub-Committee on ships' routing and ship reporting systems, challenges faced by remote meetings, consideration of proposals related to protection of the marine environment and wildlife and matters that should be considered by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), reference charts and coordinates of positions and the possibility of establishing an intersessional meeting, to give preliminary consideration to draft proposals. Due to time constraints, the Sub-Committee agreed to postpone further consideration of these matters and invited interested Member States and international organizations to submit relevant proposals to NCSR 10.

Communication

The Sub-Committee established and released the Working Group on Communications, chaired by Mr A. Schwarz (Germany), and instructed it, taking into account comments and decisions made in plenary to give preliminary consideration to several agenda items and advise the Sub-Committee.

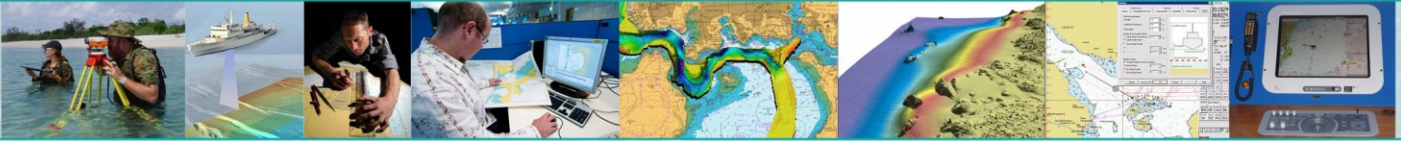
The Working Group on Communications submitted their report on 30 June and invited the Sub-Committee to approve their report in general, and in particular:

- note consideration of the Group concerning unlawful practices used by ships, in particular, to manipulate AIS data transmissions;
- agree to the draft amendments to:
 - Revised Performance Standards and functional requirements for the long-range identification and tracking of ships (resolution MSC.263(84), as amended);
 - Long-range identification and tracking system - Technical documentation (Part I) (MSC.1/Circ.1259/Rev.8);
 - Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information (MSC.1/Circ.1307), and
 - Continuity of service plan for the LRIT system (MSC.1/Circ.1376/Rev.4), with a view to adoption/approval by MSC 106.



- invite the LRIT Operational governance body (OGB) to continue monitoring the connectivity issues with the IDE disaster recovery site hosted by the United States, including developments regarding new measures to be developed and new connectivity tests to be conducted in due course, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate;
- endorse the view of the Group that interested DCs could continue to implement the so-called Option A on a voluntary and permanent basis and that the related draft amendments prepared by the OGB could be revisited at a future session once, there is an indication from a substantial number of DCs willing to make use of this option;
- note considerations of the Group concerning audit and performance of the LRIT system and agree to the recommended actions;
- approve COMSAR/Circ.32/Rev.1 on Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships set out in document NCSR 9/12, and invite the Committee to endorse the action taken;
- revoke circulars COMSAR/Circ.16, COMSAR/Circ.17, COM/Circ.110, COM/Circ.110/Corr.1 and COM/Circ.117, as from the date of entry into force (i.e. 1 January 2024) of the SOLAS amendments adopted by resolution MSC.496(105), concerning the modernization of the GMDSS, and invite the Committee to endorse the action taken;
- note the Group's support to the outcome of the BDMSS assessment conducted by IMSO, including IMSO's conclusion that BDMSS could meet the requirements of resolution A.1001(25), noting that further confirmation and verification on-site were still required with respect to the outcome of the remote visit and demonstrations (paragraphs 20 and 21);
- approve the comprehensive list of outstanding issues identified during the assessment of BDMSS, comprising technical, operational and implementation issues that needed to be addressed before CTTIC could be integrated in the GMDSS as a recognized mobile satellite service provider;
- recommend to MSC 106 for the recognition of BDMSS, subject to completion of all outstanding technical and operational issues;
- subject to the above, invite IMSO to submit a report to MSC 106 on the outcome of the site visit to the BDMSS facilities in China providing information on the status of each outstanding technical and operational issue;
- establish a correspondence group on the revision of resolution A.1001(25), to be coordinated by France, to progress this work intersessionally and approve its terms of reference;
- approve the draft terms of reference for the eighteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters and agree with the advice of the Group that five days were required for the meeting.

Having considered the Working Group's report, the Sub-Committee noted and agreed to the recommendations of the Working Group on Communications.



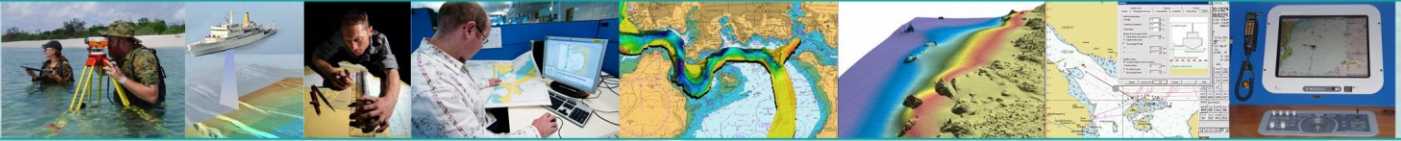
Navigation

The Sub-Committee established and released the Working Group on Navigation, chaired by Mr J. Brouwers (Netherlands), and instructed it, taking into account decisions, comments and proposals made in plenary, to give preliminary consideration to several agenda items and advise the Sub-Committee.

The Working Group on Navigation submitted their report on 30 June and invited the Sub-Committee to approve their report in general, and in particular:

- to note the Group's consideration on proposals from Brazil and United Kingdom. The Group could not conclude on any of the proposals due mainly to time constraints but concurred with the outcome of the Experts Group on Ships' Routing on these three proposals;
- agree to the draft amendments to SOLAS chapter XIV and the Polar Code parts I-A and I-B, and invite the Committee to approve them for subsequent adoption with a view to entry into force on 1 January 2026;
- endorse the check/monitoring sheet for the process of amendments to SOLAS Chapter XIV and the Polar Code, and forward it to the Committee;
- agree with the view of the Group that the certificate showing compliance with the newly introduced requirements of the Polar Code part I-A, chapters 9-1 and 11 should be left to discretion of the flag Administration;
- agree to draft Assembly resolution on Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance, and invite the Committee to approve it;
- note that the Group did not agree on the inclusion of the proposed manoeuvre into the IAMSAR Manual;
- agree to the draft MSC circular on ECDIS Guidance for good practice, to be disseminated as MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2, and forward it to the Committee for approval;
- approve the draft MSC resolution on Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) and forward it to the Committee (MSC 106, November 2022) for adoption;
- agree with the Group's recommendation that the scope of the output "Amendments to the revised ECDIS Performance Standards (Resolution MSC.232(82)) to facilitate a standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans" should only be limited to amendments necessary to facilitate a standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans and that the work should be based on the new revised standards to be adopted by MSC 106, thus requiring the output to be renamed accordingly;
- note that the Group did not agree on the unified interpretation, of provisions of IMO safety, security, environment, facilitation, liability and compensation-related conventions as proposed by two submissions.

Having considered the Working Group's report, the Sub-Committee noted and agreed to the recommendations of the Working Group on Navigation.

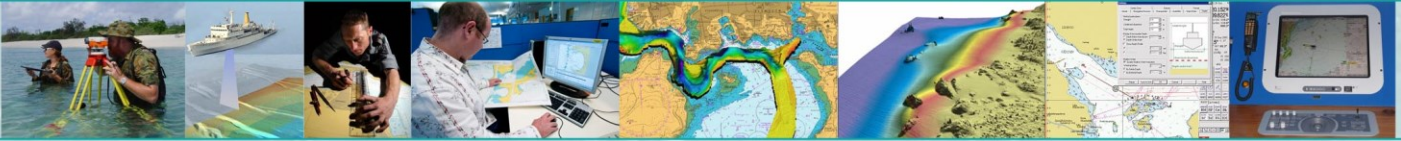


Search and Rescue

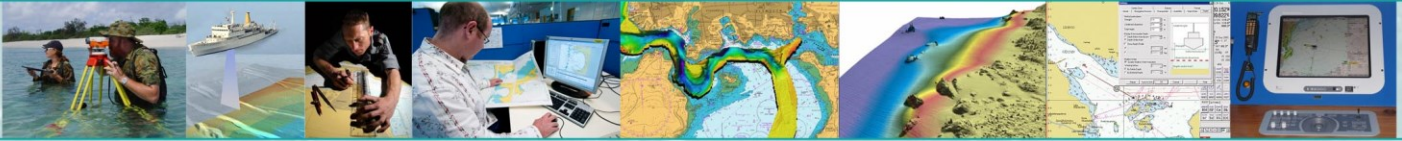
The Sub-Committee established and released the Working Group on Search and Rescue and other Technical Matters, chaired by Mr S. Shepard (Australia), instructing it to take into account decisions, comments and proposals made in plenary to give preliminary consideration to the following agenda items and advise the Sub-Committee.

The Working Group on Search and Rescue and other Technical Matters submitted their report on 30 June and invited the Sub-Committee to approve their report in general, and in particular:

- note the Group's discussion on the dissemination and reception of MSI and SAR-related information over multiple RMSSs, and endorse the provisional working definitions for interoperability and interconnectivity (paragraphs 4 to 7);
- note the Group's consideration on amendments to existing MSI related instruments, in particular that the SOLAS Convention did not need to be amended;
- note the Group's discussion on the revision of resolution A.707(17);
- note the Group's consideration on options to address cost implications for information providers;
- agree to the establishment of the Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related Information, with proposed terms of reference;
- if established, invite experts from the Member States, relevant organizations and authorities to actively participate in the work of the Correspondence Group and authorize the Coordinator to convene virtual meetings, as necessary;
- note the consideration of the Group on the report of the IMO EGC Coordinating Panel; and in particular:
 - agree that the available EGC-API developed by the IHO WNWNS-SC EGC-API Correspondence Group is a cost effective and fully integrated solution for the shore-to-ship dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information;
 - agree that the already developed and available technical solutions for broadcast monitoring sufficiently supply information providers with multiple options to comply with current monitoring requirements and that such technical solutions are best described within the respective RMSS manuals;
 - agree to set 31 December 2023 as the date for the cessation of rectangular area addressed broadcasts in the Arctic NAVAREA/METAREAs and further agree to the proposed communication plan informing mariners and the industry;
 - agree to set a revocation date for all SafetyNET certificates issued for SAR-related information as of six months from the concurrent decision of the revocation by the Sub-Committee;
 - agree that no additional certification should be required for NAVAREA and/or METAREA Coordinators when arrangements are established with SAR authorities for the purpose of broadcasting information other than navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecasts; and



- urge MSI and SAR-related information providers to conclude agreements with all RMSS providers serving their NAVAREA, METAREA or SAR region and progress their implementation of the Iridium SafetyCast service;
- note the Group's discussion on the dissemination of SAR-related information through the international EGC service/
- note the consideration of the Group on the use of the EGC API standard; and in particular:
 - invite IHO to include SAR-related information as part of the EGC API standard; and
 - encourage both RMSS providers to continue their work on distress communication between RMSS providers and SAR authorities (ship to shore communication) within the context of the EGC API and invite them to provide relevant updates to the ICAO/IMO JWG;
- note the discussion of the Group on the EPIRB MMSI encoding for craft associated with a parent ship.
- endorse the draft revised NAVTEX Manual, together with its associated MSC circular, with the effective date 1 January 2023, with a view to approval by MSC 106; and dissemination as MSC.1/Circ.1403/Rev.2 (paragraphs 28 and 29, and annex 3);
- the Group's consideration of the report of the twenty-eighth meeting of the ICAO/IMO JWG;
- approve the draft SAR circular on the list of documents and publications which should be held by a Maritime or Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, with a view to dissemination as SAR.7/Circ.15 and subsequent endorsement of this action by the Committee;
- approve the draft COMSAR circular on procedure for routing distress alerts, with a view to subsequent endorsement of this action by the Committee (paragraphs 33 and 34, and annex 5);
- agree to the draft MSC circular on guidance for ships carrying large numbers of crew or passengers in the event of a multiple casualty evacuation, with a view to approval by MSC 106;
- note the Group's consideration on the mandatory carriage of electronic inclinometers on container ships and bulk carriers of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards; and endorse the relevant draft amendments to the following instruments, with a view to approval by MSC 106 and adoption by MSC 107, with the proposed entry into force date 1 January 2026:
 - 1974 SOLAS Convention (annex 7);
 - 1978 SOLAS Protocol (annex 8); and
 - 1988 SOLAS Protocol (annex 9);
- endorse the Group's understanding that the draft requirement for electronic inclinometers should not apply to cargo ships occasionally carrying cargoes in bulk and general cargo ships carrying containers on deck, as well as that electronic and mechanical back-up systems for inclinometers would not be needed, as they were not considered critical for safety of navigation;



- note the Group's discussion on updating Model Courses 3.13 on SAR Administration (IAMSAR Manual Volume I) and 3.15 on SAR On-scene Coordinator (IAMSAR Manual Volume III).
- authorize the Secretariat to effect any editorial corrections that could be identified when preparing the final text of the aforementioned instruments approved/agreed by the Sub-Committee at this session;
- invite interested Member States to liaise with the IMO Secretariat with regard to their technical cooperation needs, with a view to enhancing their SAR capabilities through capacity building activities.

Having considered the Working Group's report, the Sub-Committee noted and agreed to the recommendations of the Working Group on Search and Rescue and other Technical Matters.

Conclusions

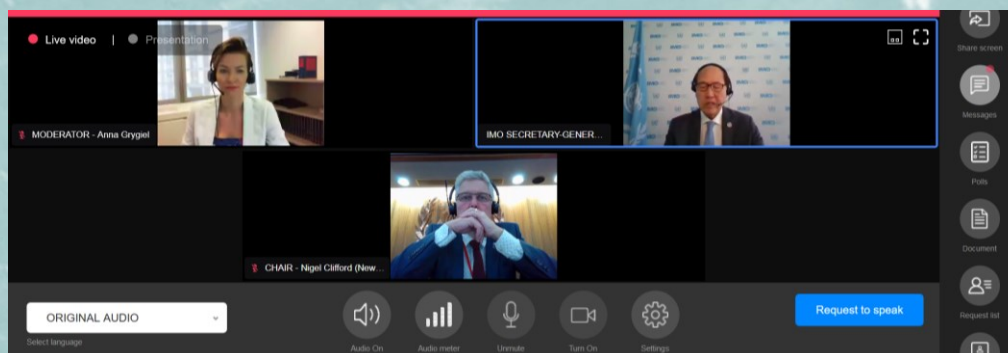
Taking into account the progress made at this session, the Sub-Committee updated the biennial status report for the 2022-2023 biennium, including outputs in the post-biennial agenda of the Committee assigned to the NCSR Sub-Committee, for consideration by MSC 106.

The Sub-Committee prepared the proposed provisional agenda for NCSR 10 for consideration by MSC 106. Having noted the Intersessional meetings to take place in 2022, the Sub-Committee invited the Committee to authorize in 2023 the holding of:

- the nineteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group; and
- the thirtieth meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group,

The Sub-Committee noted that, owing to the celebrations of the International Day for Women in Maritime (IDWIM) on 18 May 2023, the tenth session of the Sub-Committee had been tentatively scheduled to take place from 8 to 17 May 2023. Final meeting dates for 2023 were expected to be published shortly after C 127 in July 2022.

Mr Nigel Clifford, New Zealand, and Mr Alexander Schwarz, Germany, were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Sub-Committee for its 10th Session (NCSR 10).



Opening session of NCSR 9