

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION**  
**Sub-Committee Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (NCSR 2)**

Briefing notes by the Chairman - The second session of the NCSR Sub-Committee met from 9 – 13 March 2015.

**NCSR 1 - WORKING AND DRAFTING GROUPS**

The following Working and Drafting Groups were established:

**Working Groups**

WG	Subject	Agenda Items
1	Search and Rescue	14, 15, 18
2	Communication	7, 8, 9, 12, 13,
3	Navigation to include ships' routeing	3, 6

**Drafting Groups**

DG	Subject	Agenda Items
1	LRIT	5

**NCSR 1 – AGENDA**

The agenda shows each agenda item and the current target completion date for the output as detailed in the IMO's high level action plan.

Agenda Item	Title
	<p>The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) held its second session from 9 to 13 March 2015 under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Salgado (Chile). The Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. Lakeman (Netherlands) was also present.</p> <p>The Secretary-General welcomed participants and delivered his opening address, the full text of which can be downloaded from the IMO website at the following link: <a href="http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/SecretaryGeneral/Secretary-GeneralsSpeechesToMeetings/Pages/Default.aspx">http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/SecretaryGeneral/Secretary-GeneralsSpeechesToMeetings/Pages/Default.aspx</a></p> <p>In responding, the Chairman thanked the Secretary-General for his words of guidance and encouragement and assured him that his advice and requests would be given every consideration in the deliberations of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The delegation of Malta, supported by Italy, made a statement relating to search and rescue of migrants travelling by sea.</p>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee adopted the agenda (NCSR 2/1)</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>DECISIONS OF OTHER IMO BODIES.</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee noted the decisions and comments pertaining to its work made by III 1, FAL 39 and MSC 94, as reported in document NCSR 2/2, and took them into account in its deliberations when dealing with the relevant agenda items.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>ROUTEING OF SHIPS, SHIP REPORTING AND RELATED MATTERS.</b></p>

Agenda Item	Title
	<p>The following routing measures were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of new two-way routes in the south-west Coral Sea</li> <li>• Establishment of a new area to be avoided in the south-west Coral Sea</li> <li>• Establishment of five new areas to be avoided in the region of the Aleutian Islands</li> </ul> <p>These did not require any decision in principle.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee, at its last session, considered 12 proposals submitted by eight different Member Governments on ships' routing and noted a lack of consistency in the set-up of proposals in accordance with the requirements set out in MSC/Circ.1060. The Sub-Committee agreed to refer this to the Navigation Working Group for detailed consideration and advice.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee established the Ships' Routing Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Lakeman (Netherlands)</p>
4	<p><b>RECOGNITION OF GALILEO AS A COMPONENT OF THE WWRNS</b></p> <p>In considering the information provided by Austria et al. (NCSR 2/4) on the status and performance of the Galileo Global Navigation Satellite System, the Sub-Committee invited the European Commission to provide assurance that there would be no future mandatory requirement to carry shipborne Galileo receiver equipment for ships sailing in European waters.</p>
5	<p><b>UPDATES TO THE LRIT SYSTEM</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee noted the outcome of MSC 94 on LRIT-related matters but this has no impact on ISAF.</p>
6	<p><b>E-NAVIGATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b></p> <p>Sub-committee discussions centred on guidelines on Software Quality Assurance and Human Centred Design for e-navigation and as such were largely irrelevant for ISAF.</p>
7	<p><b>PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for MULTI-SYSTEM SHIPBORNE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee considered draft guidelines by Germany for reliable PNT (Position, Navigation, and Time) data processing based on multi system/multi sensor-based techniques e.g. multi-system radio navigation receivers.</p> <p>Germany considered these guidelines as an indispensable, complementary step towards improved reliability, resilience and integrity of bridge equipment and navigation information. Consequently, the guidelines were considered as a key element for the development of a multi-system radio-navigation receiver.</p> <p>The Communications Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexander Schwarz (Germany) were instructed, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finalize the draft performance standards for multi-system shipborne navigation receivers for consideration by the Sub-Committee; and</li> <li>• draft guidelines for reliable PNT data processing , and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MARITIME RADIOCOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee discussed the recognition of Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider and noted that the Maritime Safety Committee had agreed that IMSO should undertake the technical and operational assessment of</p>

Agenda Item	Title
	<p>the Iridium mobile satellite system and that IMSO should provide a technical and operational assessment report for consideration by the NCSR Sub-Committee.</p> <p>IMSO had established a Group of Experts to perform the technical and operational evaluation including Earth Stations, Space Segment, Mobile Terminals, Terrestrial Networks, GMDSS and Search and Rescue communications; and a report on the outcome of the technical and operational evaluation would be drafted by the Group of Experts and presented by the IMSO Director-General for consideration by NCSR 3.</p>
9	<p><b>FIRST OUTLINE OF THE DETAILED REVIEW OF THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)</b></p> <p>NCSR2 re-established the Correspondence Group on the Review of the GMDSS, under the coordination of the United States*, with the following terms of reference:</p> <p><i>"Taking into account the revised Plan of Work for the GMDSS Review and Modernization project (NCSR 1/28, annex 11), documents NCSR 2/9/Rev.1 and NCSR 2/WP.5, paragraphs 4.1 to 4.17 containing the report of the Communications Working Group at NCSR 2, and the outcome of discussions at the twenty-second meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue (14 to 18 September 2015), as appropriate, the Correspondence Group on the Review of the GMDSS should:</i></p> <p><i>1 develop proposals on issues identified at NCSR 2, including:</i></p> <p><i>a. consideration of the costs associated with the approval of additional GMDSS service providers; and</i></p> <p><i>b. development of reliable and correct data regarding shore-based infrastructure for the MF/HF communications system;</i></p> <p><i>2 develop the document containing the the Detailed Review of the GMDSS, also taking into account the outcome of NCSR 1 and of the tenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group which took place in 2014;</i></p> <p><i>3 submit an interim report to the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group's eleventh meeting (5 to 9 October 2015) for its consideration; and</i></p> <p><i>4 taking into account the outcome of discussions in the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group submit a report, including the document containing the (revised) draft outcome of the Detailed Review, to NCSR 3 by 11 December 2015."</i></p> <p>The Sub-Committee endorsed the holding of the 11th meeting of the Experts Group, to be held from 5 to 9 October 2015, at IMO Headquarters in London, and instructed the Communications Working Group to prepare the draft terms of reference for that meeting.</p>
10	<p><b>FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN ON SHORE-BASED FACILITIES</b></p> <p>Amendments to the master plan were notified to the committee otherwise there is nothing else to report.</p>
11	<p><b>GUIDELINES ON MSI (MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION) PROVISIONS</b></p> <p>It was agreed that further development of the GMDSS master plan on shore-based facilities (Item 10) could in future take place under this item. the Sub-Committee agreed to merge the outputs and rename it as "Updating of the GMDSS Master Plan and guidelines on MSI (maritime safety information)" when discussing its</p>

Agenda Item	Title
	biennial agenda under agenda item 20.
12	<p><b>RESPONSE TO MATTERS RELATED TO THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ITU-R STUDY GROUP</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee instructed the Communications Working Group to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expanded usage of AIS devices, and prepare a liaison statement on this matter back to Working Party 5B of ITU-RM, as appropriate; and</li> <li>• revision of the Digital Selective-Calling (DSC) system for use in the Maritime Mobile Service for consideration and preparation of a liaison statement back to WP 5B, as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>Regrettably, due to lack of time, the Communication Working Group did not consider the liaison statement on uncontrolled novel applications using AIS technology and instructed the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group to consider it and advice the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.</p>
13	<p><b>RESPONSE TO MATTERS RELATED TO ITU WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee considered the draft IMO position on relevant WRC-15 agenda items and the following views were expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMO should support the inclusion of an agenda item on the review of the GMDSS, which should also include the consideration of regulatory provisions related to the inclusion of additional satellite providers in the GMDSS;</li> <li>• IMO would not be in a position to provide information to ITU-R, at least not at the start of the study cycle between WRC-15 and WRC-19, since no final decisions would have been taken regarding the review of the GMDSS and the introduction of additional satellite providers in the GMDSS;</li> <li>• if protection of the frequency band 406–406.1 MHz in use by Cospas-Sarsat is not adequately addressed, IMO should support proposals for the inclusion of an agenda item to consider measures to protect the systems operating in the mobile-satellite service in the band 406-406.1 MHz and</li> <li>• it was important for IMO to ask for an agenda item promoting the safety of navigation.</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INMARSAT AND COSPAS-SARSAT</b></p> <p>After some discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed with the ICAO/IMO JWG that keeping the same level of performance of the 121.5 MHz final homing capability is an area of concern as it did not enable the interleaving of other current- and emerging-technology signals and methodologies that offer the potential for a more capable and effective homing process.</p> <p>Evidence was needed that the proposed modification of the current IMO requirement for a continuous 121.5 MHz homing signal had no detrimental effect on 121.5 MHz homing capability. It was further agreed that this should be demonstrated through appropriate testing, which should be documented and provided for review when the Sub-Committee would consider the revision of resolution A.810(19) at a future session.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee agreed that, during the period from 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014, Inmarsat had continued to provide fully operational maritime mobile satellite distress and safety communication services for the GMDSS and fulfilled the Company's public service obligation as stated in the Public Services Agreement</p>

Agenda Item	Title
	(PSA).
15	<b>GUIDELINES ON HARMONIZED AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES, INCLUDING SAR TRAINING MATTERS</b> There were no points of interest raised under this item at this session
16	<b>FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL SAR PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF MARITIME SAR SERVICES</b>
17	<b>PROCEDURES FOR ROUTEING DISTRESS INFORMATION IN THE GMDSS</b> Noting that no documents had been submitted on this item for several years, the Sub-Committee agreed to invite the Committee to delete this planned output when discussing its biennial agenda under agenda item 20.
18	<b>AMENDMENTS TO THE IAMSAR MANUAL</b>
19	<b>UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF IMO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND ENVIRONMENT RELATED CONVENTIONS</b> The Sub-Committee recalled that MSC 78 had included the consideration of IACS Unified Interpretations (UIs) as a continuous item on the Sub-Committee's biennial agenda, so that IACS could submit any newly-developed or updated unified interpretations for consideration of the Sub-Committee with a view to developing appropriate IMO interpretations, if deemed necessary. The Sub-Committee, noting that no documents had been submitted on this issue to this session, agreed to defer further consideration of the item to NCSR 3.
20	<b>BIENNIAL AGENDA AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR NCSR 3</b> NCSR3 has been had been tentatively scheduled to take place from 29 February to 4 March 2016. Dependant on Decisions made by MSC95, the proposed provisional agenda for NCSR 3 will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAR matters;</li> <li>• Routeing measures and mandatory ship reporting systems;</li> <li>• Recognition of Galileo as a component of the WWRNS;</li> <li>• Updates to the LRIT system;</li> <li>• Recognition of the Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider;</li> <li>• Amend performance standards, as necessary, to allow for interconnection of NAVTEX and Inmarsat SafetyNET receivers and their display on Integrated Navigation Display Systems;</li> <li>• GMDSS Review;</li> <li>• Revision of the SafetyNET and NAVTEX Manuals;</li> <li>• Matters related to the Radiocommunication ITU-R Study Groups;</li> <li>• Matters related to ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences; and</li> <li>• Implementation of e-navigation (if output(s) is/are approved by MSC 95).</li> </ul>
21	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2016</b> The Sub-Committee unanimously elected Mr. R. Lakeman (Netherlands) as Chairman and Mr. N. Clifford (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairman for 2016.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> Nothing of ISAF Concern was raised under this item.
<b>23</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE</b> NCSR would invite the Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fifth session to endorse its report and the actions taken by the sub-committee.

STUART CARRUTHERS  
08 JUN 15