Action Required: IR Commission members are invited to note the relevant outcomes of NCSR13.

The 13th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), was held from 22 to 26 June 2026.

Key Outcomes

1. Routeing Measures and Ship Reporting Systems

- Approved amendments to Traffic Separation Schemes off:
  - Delaware Bay
  - New York
  - Cape Fear River
  - Chesapeake Bay
- Finalised revised ship reporting systems for:
  - Dover Strait/Pas de Calais (CALDOVREP)
  - Western European Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (WETREP)
  - Strait of Bonifacio
- These measures are recommended for adoption at MSC 112.

2. Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT)

- Noted MSC 111 approval of a free-of-charge policy for entitled coastal States.
- Agreed to remove Yemen's LRIT National Data Centre from the distribution plan due to expiry of certification.
- Encouraged States to keep LRIT data, polygons and contacts up to date.
- Called for greater use of LRIT in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

3. GMDSS and Maritime Safety Information

- Reviewed GMDSS Master Plan data quality and urged States to maintain accurate information.
- Encouraged greater use of Iridium SafetyCast and modernization of EGC services.
- Updated the NAVDAT implementation roadmap and agreed to continue monitoring progress.
- Noted strong performance of recognised satellite communication providers supporting GMDSS services.

4. Search and Rescue (SAR)

- Progressed amendments to the IAMSAR Manual covering:
  - Emergency psychology guidance
  - Submersible and submarine SAR considerations
  - Ship reporting systems
  - Search planning concepts
- Approved updated guidance on documents required in Rescue Coordination Centres.
- Encouraged wider use of LRIT by SAR authorities.
- Supported IMRF initiatives to improve global SAR capability and training.

5. EPIRBs and Galileo Return Link Service

- Agreed draft revisions to EPIRB performance standards to allow optional two-way communication capability through the Galileo Return Link Service.
- Requested further operational guidance and human-factor considerations.
- Recommended extending work on this output into 2027.

6. Radio Communications

Updated guidance for disseminating SAR information through Enhanced Group Call services.

7. VHF Digital Voice Communications

- Agreed a transition scheme for the introduction of digital VHF voice communications.

8. Navigation Equipment Standards

- R-Mode Navigation
  - Developed draft performance standards for shipborne R-Mode receivers.
  - Agreed that R-Mode should be viewed as a complementary backup to GNSS.