



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
 Organisation météorologique mondiale
 Organización Meteorológica Mundial
 Всемирная метеорологическая организация
 المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
 世界气象组织

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13 September 2023

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Communication to Members with METAREA Coordinator responsibilities

- Actions required:
- 1) Commence use of the recently updated marine meteorological safety manuals
 - 2) Note the latest developments for satellite communication of maritime safety information
 - 3) Provide WMO with generic METAREA email details
 - 4) Save the date for the WMO-IMO Symposium (23–26 October 2024)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The past 12 months have been busy for activities related to the provision of meteorological Maritime Safety Information (MSI). This included the first physical meeting of the World Meteorological Organization Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (WMO SERCOM) Advisory Group on the Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service Subcommittee (AG-WWMIWS-SubC), held jointly with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Subcommittee (WWNWS-SC) at WMO in Geneva in September 2022. It brought together both the MET and NAV-Area Coordinators for discussions to strengthen their mandated delivery of MSI under the International Convention for Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS).

These sessions resulted in several submissions to, and considerations by, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its tenth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 10) in May 2023 and its one-hundred and seventh meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 107) in June 2023. The key outcomes are outlined in Annex 1.

Furthermore, both WMO and IMO have placed greater emphasis on the accomplishments of females contributing to maritime safety, and I encourage you all to acknowledge the importance of your staff contributing to this target for gender balance within service delivery, and as well, consider improvements where needed.

Following on from the WMO letter entitled "Your role and responsibility as a METAREA Coordinator authority" (ref 132XX/2022/S/MAR/METAREA Coordinators) sent in June 2022, thank you to those PRs who provided WMO with generic METAREA email details. For those who haven't yet done so, please consider sending a generic email address to the WMO Secretariat (mno@wmo.int) as soon as possible.

To: Permanent Representatives of METAREA Coordinator Countries with WMO (limited distribution)

I would also like to use this opportunity to highlight the second WMO-IMO International Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather, taking place at the IMO Headquarters in London, from 23 to 26 September 2024 (Annex 2). This will provide an opportunity for MSI service providers to interact with their maritime customers and other key stakeholders and I encourage you to consider participation by your respective METAREA Coordinator and relevant individuals involved in meteorological MSI delivery.

Your commitment and obligation to ensuring the highest level of service for protecting lives and property at sea under SOLAS is vital. Please accept my thanks for your Service's contributions to this and consider passing on this letter and contents to your METAREA Coordinator Focal Points.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Taalas', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

KEY OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO METEOROLOGICAL MARITIME SAFETY, FROM IMO MEETINGS IN 2023

Key outcomes for METAREAS, from IMO NCSR 10:

- Revisions to the *Maritime Service (MS)* descriptions for which WMO is the domain responsible body, namely *MS13* (Ice navigation information) and *MS14* (Meteorological information)
- Developments in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) satellite services, including revisions to the *Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI*, the *Iridium SafetyCast service manual* and a report on the AG-WWMIWS-SubC meeting
- Progress on development of performance standards for the digital navigation data system (NAVDAT), which may initially supplement the current NAVTEX service, however numerous actions, requirements and policy decisions were identified related to its recognition for use in the GMDSS
- Re-establishment of the Correspondence Group (CG) on the revision of IMO resolution A.1001(25) - *Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication services in the GMDSS* - to continue work on the requirements and criteria to be achieved for new applications to become a mobile satellite service for use in the GMDSS, and with a view to reporting to NCSR 11 in June 2024
- With respect to the report of the CG on *Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related Information*, it was agreed that:
 - The development of an interoperable application programming interface (API) was a suitable technical approach for dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information over multiple recognized mobile satellite services (RMSS)
 - There was no technical system or arrangement in place between RMSS for transfer or exchange of information, nor were there any agreements in place for broadcast cost sharing or distribution between information providers and RMSS nor between each RMSS
 - Clarification was required on the decision made at MSC 105 on the use of all RMSS and the timescale intended and that no amendments to the Terms of Reference of the IMO EGC Coordinating Panel should be made until this clarification was received
 - Any revisions to IMO resolutions A.707(17) and A.1001(25) should be aligned and that revisions should remain compatible with International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-T Recommendation D.90
 - After reviewing and refining the seven proposed options to address cost implications for information providers; it was decided that:
 - Option 1, the current state, should be the position from which further considerations were made; and
 - Option 7, the option for Flag states to fund the dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information on a pro-rata basis, was not supported and removed from the list of options for consideration.
 - Before further progress could be made, various policy issues needed to be addressed and subsequent direction provided; and
 - It was agreed that there was no need to re-establish the CG at this meeting.

Key Outcomes from IMO MSC 107

- The revised Iridium SafetyCast service manual was approved for publication with an operational date of 1 July 2023.

2nd WMO-IMO Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather

Bridging the Knowledge Gap Towards Safer Shipping

SAVE THE DATE

- 23-26 September 2024
- IMO Headquarters, London, United Kingdom

Coinciding with World Maritime Day 2024



2021
2030
United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



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