**NCSR7 (15 – 24 January 2020)**

The 7th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), was held at IMO Headquarters from 15to 24 January 2020.

***Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)***

NCSR7agreed to recognize the Indian RegionalNavigation Satellite System (IRNSS) as a component of theWorldwide radionavigation system.

An SN Circular wasdrafted to that effect and will be forwarded to the MaritimeSafety Committee (MSC) for approval.

***Japanese regional navigation satellite system Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)***

In relation to the application by Japan for recognition of theJapanese regional navigation satellite system Quasi-ZenithSatellite System (QZSS) in the maritime field, NCSR7 considered the information provided to date.

Consequently, Japan was invited to provide furtherinformation and more detailed data to a future session of theSub-Committee, including, inter alia, the available coverage,both regionally and locally, the degree of accuracy, and signalavailability.

NCSR7 approved a draft MSC resolution onPerformance standards for shipborne QZSS receiverequipment, for adoption by MSC.

***Development of performance standards for shipborneequipment using radio signals for the provision ofinformation and data for navigation.***

In a broader context, NCSR7agreed that thework on the development of performance standards forShipborne satellite navigation system receiver equipmentcould continue.

However, this is only to be done within thecontext of satellite navigation receiver equipment only.Submissions were invited from interested parties toprogress the work intersessionaly for finalization at NCSR8.

***Revision of the Guidelines for vessel traffic services (Resolution A.857(20))***

In finalizing the revision of the guidelines for vessel trafficservices, the Sub-Committee considered whether it waspossible to establish a VTS beyond the territorial seas ofthe coastal state.

Whilst it was agreed that this could beso, it is on the understanding that this is to provideinformation and advice on a voluntary participation basisonly.

NCSR7 approved the draft Assemblyresolution on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, forsubsequent approval by MSC and adoption by theAssembly.

NCSR7approved, with a view toadoption by MSC, draft amendments to existing trafficseparation schemes and associated routeing measures,relating to the:

- consolidated traffic separation schemes andassociated routeing measures off the coast ofNorway;

- traffic separation scheme in "Slupska Bank", Poland;

- traffic separation scheme "Off Ushant".

Additionally, NCSR7approved amendmentsto the existing two-way route in the Great Barrier Reef andTorres Strait.

The routeing measures agreed above are expected to beimplemented six months after their adoption by MSC.

The Sub-Committee also agreed that the existing adoptedmeasures contained in circulars COLREG.2/Circ.58,COLREG.2/Circ.61 and COLREG.2/Circ.62 should be revoked,due to their complete replacement by new measures to beadopted.

***Updating of the GMDSS Master plan and Guidelines on Maritime Safety Information (MSI)***

NCSR7 agreed to the draft revision ofMSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.1 on International SafetyNET ServicesManual which will be forwarded to MSC for approval.

NCSR7also agreed to the draft MSCcircular on the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel;which will also be forwarded to MSC for approval.

***Guidance for further development of Maritime Servicesdescriptions (MSC.1/Circ.1610)***

NCSR7agreed that in order to progress thework on the further development of the descriptions ofMaritime Services intersessionaly.

MSC will be invited toestablish an ISWG with input from the FacilitationCommittee.

Member States are encouraged to submitproposals on the Terms of Reference to NCSR8.

Furthermore, NCSR7agreed that the JointWorking Group (JWG) should maintain its review of MaritimeService 10 (Maritime Assistance Service) and MaritimeService 16 (Search and Rescue Service) with a view toreporting any recommendations to future sessions of theSub-Committee.

***E-navigation strategy implementation plan update***

Although there is no dedicated output enabling theconsideration of the implementation plan, interested partieswere invited to progress the work to update the E-navigationStrategy implementation plan – Update 1 (MSC.1/Circ.1595)intersessionaly and present a draft to a future session of theSub-Committee.

***Revision of the Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance (Resolution A.949(23))***

NCSR7continued the work on the revision of the Guidelines on placesof refuge for ships in need of assistance (ResolutionA.949(23)) and to that end a correspondence group wasestablished to further this work intersessionaly.

***MSI portrayal guidance***

Noting that there have been issues relating to the MSIportrayal guidance in SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2, NCSR7agreed that the most expedite way to resolvethis issue was to issue a corrigendum to that document.

Consequently, the draft corrigendum(SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2/Corr.1), will be forwarded to MSC forapproval.

***Communications***

NCSR7considered the development of atechnical solution for the reception and dissemination ofMSI and SAR related information over different recognizedmobile satellite services and the monitoring of MSIbroadcasts in the new, multi-provider environment.

Following lengthy discussions at this session, the work ofdeveloping a technical solution for the reception anddissemination of MSI and SAR related information overdifferent recognized mobile satellite service providerscontinues and will be reviewed at future sessions of theSub-Committee.

Furthermore, NCSR7agreed that there was noneed for a liaison statement, as proposed, since all relevantparties were already cooperating on this matter.

***Amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV***

NCSR7agreed, in principle, to draftamendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV covering thefollowing areas:

- Chapter III - Life-saving appliances and arrangements:

- Part B: Requirements for ships' life-savingappliances;

- Chapter IV -Radiocommunications

-Part A: Generalo Part B: Undertakings by contractinggovernments;

- Part C: Ship requirements;

- Form of safety certificate for passenger ships;

- Record of equipment for passenger ship safety(Form P);

- Record of equipment for the cargo ship safetyequipment certificate (Form E);

- Form of safety radio certificate for cargo ships;

- Record of equipment for cargo ship safety radio(Form R);

- Form of safety certificate for cargo shipso Record of equipment for cargo ship safety (Form C);

- Form of safety certificate for nuclear passengershipso Record of equipment for passenger ship safetycertificate (Form P);

- Form of safety certificate for nuclear cargo ships;

- Record of equipment for the nuclear cargo shipsafety certificate (Form C).

Additionally, consequential amendments to the followingexisting instruments were identified:

- A.702(17) on Radio maintenance guidelines for theGMDSS related to sea areas A3 and A4;

- MSC/Circ.1039 on Guidelines for shore-basedmaintenance of satellite EPIRBs- MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.1 on Guidelines on annualtesting of 406 MHz satellite EPIRBs- COMSAR/Circ.32;

- A.707(17) on Charges for distress, urgency andsafety messages through the Inmarsat system;

- Work plan for the review of existing instrumentsrelated to the amendments to SOLAS chapters IIIand IV.

**Electromagnetic interference (EMI) effects of light-emittingdiode (LED) lighting systems**

NCSR7considered the potential impact ofElectromagnetic interference (EMI) effects of, inter alia,light-emitting diode (LED) lighting systems on ship safety andInvite interested parties to submit proposals to the nextsession of the IMO/ITU Experts Group.

***Revision of recommendation ITU-R M.585-7 on assignmentand use of identities in the maritime mobile service.***

NCSR7approved a liaison statement relatingto the revision of recommendation ITU-R M.585-7 onAssignment and use of identities in the maritime mobileservice, for AMRD Group B using AIS technology which willbe forwarded to ITU-R WP 5B.

***Protection of L-band maritime satellite communications***

In considering the position of CEPT ECC with regard to LBand communications, the Sub-Committee approved aliaison statement on the protection of L-band maritimesatellite communications, whichwill be forwarded to CEPTECC.

***Consequential amendments of resolutions MSC.163(78),MSC.333(90) and MSC/Circ.882 related to the adoption ofresolution MSC.471(101)***

NCSR7will forward the draft revisedresolutions MSC.163(78) and MSC.333(90) to the nextsession of the IMO/ITU Expert Group for furtherconsideration.

***Status of the Cospas-SarsatProgramme***

NCSR7was pleased to note that thecontinuing success of the Cospas-SarsatProgrammewhich could be measured in the fact that 2,185 personshad been rescued over 904 search and rescue missionsthrough the life of the programme.

In light of this, the Sub-Committee encouragedAdministrations to enter into agreements between SPOCsand their supporting MCCs, based on the model availableon the Cospas-Sarsat website and instruct the ICAO/IMOJWG to develop an appropriate methodology for RCCs toprovide feedback on actions taken in a SAR event.

***Guidelines on harmonized aeronautical and maritimesearch and rescue procedures, including SAR trainingmatters***

NCSR7approved the draft COMSAR circularon Interim Guiedance for SAR Services RegardingImplementation of Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT) ofAircraft in Flight.Furthermore, the Sub-Committee instructed the JWG toconsider the results of the GMDSS/GADSS ship-to-aircraftinteroperability trials once available.

***Use of expired primary batteries to examine and check theoperation of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus***

NCSR7agreed that expired primary batteries,complying with MSC.149(77) may be used, solely, for theexamination and checking of the operation of two-way VHFradiotelephone apparatus.

Resolution A.1120(30) will beupdated accordingly in due course.

***Battery validity dates for survival craft portable two-wayVHF radios***

NCSR7agreed that the battery validity dates forsurvival craft portable two-way radiotelephone apparatusshould be clearly defined and marked on the equipment.

Thiswould ensure that the underlying requirement could not beexploited to gain a commercial advantage at the expense ofsafety.

Resolution MSC.149(77) will be updated accordinglyin due course.

***Model Training Courses***

Work continues on the review of model courses 3.13 on SARAdministration (IAMSAR Manual Volume I) and 3.15 on SAROn-scene Coordinator (IAMSAR Manual Volume III), with aview to validation at NCSR8.

NCSR7agreed to invite proposals to NCSR8from member States and international organizations relatingto the review of model course 3.08 on Survey of navigationalaids and equipment.

***Correspondence groups established byNCSR7***

1. Correspondence group on revision of the Guidelines on places of refuge forships in need of assistance (resolution A.949(23));

2. Correspondence group on safety measures for non-SOLAS ships operating inpolar waters.