



12 – INTERNATIONAL

12.5 – IMO

12.5.4 – Report on MSC 103 and NCSR 8

Note by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes items of interest to IALA members arising from IMO NCSR 8 and MSC 103, both held since Council 72. Due to the time constraints of virtual meetings, both meetings only addressed issues and proposals requiring urgent consideration.

MSC 103

The one hundred and third session of the IMO MSC was held as a virtual meeting from 5 to 14 May 2021, chaired by Mrs Mayte Medina (US), supported by the vice-chair, Mr Tehofilos Mozas (Greece).

IALA submitted the following papers to the meeting and discussion of both papers has been deferred to a future session:

- MSC 103/20/5 Opening for signature of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (France and IALA)
- MSC 103/20/9 IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IALA)

MASS RSE

The Committee agreed on the outcome of the Regulatory Scoping Exercise (RSE) and set the priorities for further work on MASS. Please refer to the document MSC 103/WP.8 for details.

The group also agreed to develop a new instrument on MASS (a MASS Code) to address the issue holistically and that in order to facilitate the operation of MASS at an early stage, establishing interim guidelines for MASS may be beneficial for ensuring safe, secure and environmentally-friendly MASS operations.

The RSE concluded that the following IMO instruments under the purview of MSC were classified as 'High-priority':

- SOLAS chapters II-1, II-2, III, IV, V, VI, VII, IX, XI-1 and XI-2
- COLREGs
- STCW Convention and Code
- STCW-F Convention
- 1966 LL Convention and 1988 Protocol thereto.
- 1979 SAR Convention



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- FSS Code
- IMSBC Code
- IMDG Code
- TONNAGE 1969
- IBC Code
- IGC Code

The RSE concluded that the following IMO instruments under the purview of MSC were classified as "Medium-priority":

- SOLAS chapter XII
- CSS Code
- Casualty Investigation Code
- III Code
- Grain Code
- INF Code
- 2008 Intact Stability Code
- Standards for owners' inspection and maintenance of bulk carrier hatch covers.

The RSE concluded that the following remaining instruments under the purview of MSC were classified as 'low-priority' and required no significant action for the use of MASS.

VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)

The Committee considered documents MSC 102/21/4 and MSC 103/18 (Japan et al.) proposing amendments to SOLAS chapter V to introduce the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES), develop related performance standards and guidelines and revise/amend relevant IMO instruments.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to include in its post-biennial agenda an output on "Development of amendments to SOLAS chapters IV and V and performance standards and guidelines to introduce VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)", with two sessions needed to complete the item, assigning the NCSR Sub-Committee as the associated organ and also agreed to exempt those SOLAS amendments from the four-year amendment cycle.

NCSR 8

The eighth session of the IMO Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) was held remotely from 19 to 23 April 2021, chaired by Mr R. Lakeman (Netherlands), supported by the vice-chair, Mr N. Clifford (New Zealand).

An intersessional meeting of the NCSR Communications Working Group (7-12 April 2021) was held in advance of NCSR 8 to consider all documents submitted to NCSR 8 under agenda item 6, "Revision of SOLAS chapters III and IV for Modernization of the GMDSS, including related and consequential amendments to other existing instruments".

Revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5

The meeting recalled that NCSR 6 had considered a liaison statement from ITU-R Working Party 5B (NCSR 6/12/8), requesting information with respect to the work towards the revision of



Recommendation *ITU-R M.1371-5 Technical characteristics for an automatic identification system using time division multiple access in the VHF maritime mobile frequency band* and that, after consideration, the Sub-Committee had sent a liaison statement back to ITU-R Working Party 5B, as contained in document NCSR 6/WP.4, annex 12.

Recognition of the Japanese regional navigation satellite system QZSS as a component of the WWRNS

The Sub-Committee considered document NCSR 8/4 (Japan) providing information on the Japanese regional navigation satellite system QZSS, seeking recognition of QZSS as a component of the WWRNS, and providing a draft SN circular for this purpose.

After consideration and noting general support for the recognition of QZSS, the Sub-Committee agreed that QZSS should be recognized as a component of the WWRNS suitable for use in ocean waters, as well as coastal, port approach, restricted waters and inland waterways within the geographical area specified.

Use of public broadband communication and technical standardization for public mobile networks in the context of maritime safety

The Sub-Committee noted the consideration of IMO/ITU EG 16 concerning the use of public broadband communication and technical standardization for public mobile networks in the context of maritime safety. They noted in particular, that the Experts Group had invited the interested Member States and organizations to submit proposals on the use of public broadband communication to NCSR 8 for consideration and in-depth discussion and, in particular, to enable the Sub-Committee to provide clear directions to the Experts Group, as appropriate (NCSR 8/7, paragraph 2.25 and annex, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.3).

During the consideration, the delegations that took the floor expressed support in general to the proposal presented in document NCSR 8/7/7, also recognizing the potential benefits for shipping. However, noting the need for clear directions and the allocation of sufficient time for discussion and consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to invite interested parties to submit relevant proposals for a new output to the Committee in order to address this matter as part of the working plan of the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.

Progress on standards development by the IEC

The Sub-Committee noted the information provided in document NCSR 8/13 (IEC) on the preparation of standards by IEC TC80 to support relevant performance standards and other instruments developed by the Organization.

Report on the monitoring of ECDIS issues

The meeting noted the information provided in documents NCSR 8/13/1 (IHO) reporting on ECDIS issues, and NCSR 8/13/3 (Canada) supporting the recommendations made in document NCSR 8/13/1 and invited interested Member States and international organizations to contribute to the work of IHO in the preparation of amendments to resolution *MSC.232(82)* and *MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1*.

In this context, a view was expressed indicating support for the implementation of the IHO's *S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model* and the recognition of *S-101 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) for ECDIS*, also emphasizing the need to align the work schedule of the Organization with that of IHO on this matter to ensure implementation of S-100 product specifications by 2024, with a transitional phase up to 2030.

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the information provided.