



United States Coast Guard

INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION



# International Maritime Organization *e-newsletter*

Covering issues under consideration at the International Maritime Organization of interest to the United States

## In this Issue

From the Director's Desk.....	1
Technical Cooperation Committee ..	2
Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers .....	2
Safety of Navigation.....	3
Council .....	5
Assembly.....	6

## From the Director's Desk

Happy New Year and welcome to 2014!

As it happens every two years, 2013 concluded with IMO holding the 28th session of the Assembly from 25 November to 4 December, 2013. The Assembly is the highest body at IMO and it addresses the most significant issues of IMO governance. In addition to finalizing the IMO Strategic Plan for the next five years, it also agreed on the next two years budget, which is generally more austere than in the past as it reflects the economic downturn faced by all countries. In addition it finalized many important initiatives which the U.S. has had a keen interest and involvement. Among these are the Implementation of the IMO Instruments Implementation (III) Code and the establishment of a mandatory audit scheme for evaluating the extent that countries have implemented the mandatory IMO instruments.

The US delegation to the Assembly was led by the Commandant, Admiral Papp, and it also included VADM Neffenger, Deputy Commandant for Operations. In addition to

leading the US delegation to IMO, ADM Papp held several high-level meetings with counterparts from Arctic nations and with key industry leaders while he was in London, he also addressed the graduating class at World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden.

In addition, since our last edition, the US actively participated in a number of other meetings including the final two sessions of the Sub-committees for Safety of Navigation (NAV); and, Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC). The two functional areas for these subcommittees will now be addressed by the Sub-committees on Navigation, Communication, and Search and Rescue (NCSR); and, Carriage of Cargo and Containers (CCC), respectively. Further details on these meetings are discussed in this issue.

This coming year promises to be very interesting and busy year as the IMO finalizes its work on the Polar Code and begins work in the newly amalgamated arrangements for sub-committees, which will condense what used to be nine meeting weeks into seven.

I once again thank you for your interest in the IMO e-Newsletter and welcome any comments or suggestions for future editions.

Jeff Lantz  
Director of Commercial Regulations



Visit our webpage for information on the upcoming IMO sessions, public meetings in preparation for upcoming session, agendas for each upcoming session, and final reports of past sessions.

[www.uscg.mil/imo](http://www.uscg.mil/imo)

## 28th IMO Assembly (A28)

The IMO Assembly held its 28th session from 25 November — 4 December, 2013, under the presidency of Mr. Ünal Çeviköz (Turkey).

Admiral Robert Papp, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, led the U.S. delegation. In his general remarks to the Assembly, he brought further attention to the importance of the Arctic and its expanding role as a shipping route, along with the special considerations necessary to keep that area pristine and safe for seafarers in the face of the increased shipping traffic. In particular he noted the extensive work being done on the Polar Code and encouraged the other members to continue working towards its completion. Admiral Papp also admonished the maritime community to continue the necessary measures for combating piracy on the west coast of Africa.

During the 8 day Assembly, its membership also approved 32 resolutions and noted numerous amendments to mandatory instruments approved by the Committees including those related to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme; training and certification of personnel on mobile offshore drilling units; and, on qualifications of deep-sea marine pilots.

### III Code

One of the most significant amendments noted and discussed by the Assembly, were those which made the Implementation of IMO Instruments Code (III Code) mandatory. The Assembly adopted several resolutions regarding maritime safety.

### Mandatory Audit Scheme

Culminating many years of effort on a U.S. Coast Guard-led initiative, the Assembly established the mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme that will assist parties to IMO instruments in assessing their performance in meeting obligations under those instruments. To do so, the Assembly adopted resolutions to establish the framework and procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme and to transition from the existing voluntary audit scheme to the new mandatory audit scheme.

### Guidelines on preservation and collection of evidence

The Assembly also adopted a resolution for Guidelines On The Preservation And Collection Of Evidence Following An Allegation Of A Serious Crime Having Taken Place On Board A Ship Or Following A Report Of A Missing Person From A Ship, And Pastoral And Medical Care Of Persons Affected. This resolution is a product of the Legal Committee and was initially co-sponsored by the U.S. and is considered a positive outcome for the U.S.

### Council Election

Biennial IMO Council elections were held. Of the 170 IMO Members, 40 Members are elected by the entire membership to represent the Membership's interests in international shipping (Category A), international seaborne trade (Category B), and special interests in maritime transport or navigation, whose election to the Council

will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world (Category C).

The United States, a Category A Council Member since 1959, was re-elected to the IMO Council, ensuring the US is able to participate and contribute in this very important decision-making venue. No changes occurred within Categories A or B, however Peru was elected, replacing Egypt in Category C.

### Bravery At Sea

On the first evening of Assembly, the IMO presented the 2013 Exceptional Bravery At Sea Award. This award, presented annually, recognizes those who perform extraordinary acts of bravery in attempting to save lives at sea. One of the award winners was Mr. Jinguo Yang, a crewmember on the ferry Tong Chang Qi Du 11, nominated by the Government of China, who gave his own life whilst trying to rescue a person in distress on the ferry, after it had collided with the cargo ship Shun Qiang 28.



ADM Papp addresses the IMO 28th General Assembly.



## A28 (continued)

The other two award winners were U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technicians Haba and Todd. These two rescue swimmers were recognized for their heroism after they rescued 14 survivors from a partially submerged ship and its debris field, during a hurricane that had generated 10m waves and strong currents.

An aircrew from AIRSTA San Francisco was also recognized for their rescue of a mariner in medical dis-

stress aboard a merchant vessel.

### Council Election

Biennial IMO Council elections were held. Of the 170 IMO Members, 40 Members are elected by the entire membership to represent the Membership's interests in international shipping (Category A), international seaborne trade (Category B), and special interests in maritime transport or navigation, whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world (Category C).

The United States, a Category A Council Member since 1959, was re-elected to the IMO Council, ensuring the US is able to participate and contribute in this very important decision-making venue. No changes occurred within Categories A or B, however Peru was elected, replacing Egypt in Category C.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly will meet again in November 2015.



AST2 Haba (middle left) and AST2 Todd (middle right) prepare to accept the Exception at Bravery At Sea Award at IMO Assembly 28. ADM Papp (far left) and Mr. Lantz (far right) are also in attendance.

# Council sessions I 10, I 11, and C/ES 27

## C 110

The IMO Council held its 110<sup>th</sup> session from 15-19 July 2013, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jeff Lantz (USA).

### Review and Reform

One of the main topics of interest was the recent subcommittee (S/C) restructuring. The Council noted the Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Protection Committees' agreements to reduce the number of S/Cs from nine to seven. The new S/Cs are the S/C on Ship Design and Construction; the S/C on Pollution Prevention and Response; the S/C on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping; the S/C on Ship Systems and Equipment; the S/C on Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue; the S/C on Implementation of IMO Instruments; and, the S/C on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers. These new S/Cs will meet in 2014 and replace the existing ones.

The Council also approved the Secretary General's (SG) proposal to publish the IMO's financial statements and audit opinion; and to establish a financial disclosure program for key members of the IMO staff.

### Budget

The Council also held extensive budget discussions. The Council asked the SG to convey the Council's views on the impact that rising staff costs might have on the IMO's financial sustainability to the International Civil Servant Commission (ICSC) and UN General Assembly (UNGA). Since salaries and cost of living increases are set externally by the ICSC, and the majority of the IMO's budget is due to staff costs, the IMO discretionary portion of the IMO budget must either decrease or Member State assessments must

increase. Communicating concern over these increases is seen as a first step to achieving a sustainable budget for the IMO.

### Protection of vital shipping lanes

The Council welcomed the recent reduction of acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia and also expressed concern over the recent rise in incidents of piracy off the Coast of Guinea. It also agreed to draft an Assembly resolution regarding piracy and armed robbery against ships in the West Africa region at the 27th Council Extraordinary Session (C/ES 27), for consideration by Assembly 28.

### Crimes At Sea

The Council noted the draft Assembly resolution entitled Guidelines on the preservation and collection of evidence following an allegation of a serious crime having taken place on board a ship or following a report of a missing person from a ship, and pastoral and medical care of persons affected, contained in annex 2 to document LEG 100/14, and approved for submission to the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly, for adoption. The development of these guidelines were a high priority to the U.S.

### External relations – World Maritime Day

The Council endorsed the proposed theme for World Maritime Day 2014 as "IMO Conventions: Effective implementation". Morocco will host the 2014 World Maritime Day parallel event and Japan will host the 2015 event.

### International Maritime Prize

The Council decided to award the 2012 prize to Dr. Thomas A. Mensah, nominated by the Republic of Ghana.

## C/ES 27

The IMO Council also held its 27<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session (C/ES 27) from November 22-23, 2013, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jeff Lantz (U.S.).

### Results based budget

This session of Council is typically held the week before the IMO's biennial Assembly. At this session, the IMO's 2014-2015 budget was finalized. Also, the Council finalized the list of work, known as the High Level Action Plan (HLAP), planned for the biennium. Most IMO members were pleased to learn that member assessments would actually decrease slightly for the next two years. The U.S. was pleased with the Secretary General's efforts towards keeping the Organizations discretionary and operating costs to a minimum.

### Periodic Review of Administrative Requirements In Mandatory IMO Instruments

The Council considered the report of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for Reducing Administrative Burdens (SGRAR) and noted that the group had received multiple responses from its inquiries within industry. The U.S. was also recognized for developing a database to receive and track the information received.

## C 111

Following the 28<sup>th</sup> Assembly, at the 111<sup>th</sup> Council. Mr. Jeff Lantz was re-elected as the Council Chairman, along with Mr. Dumisani Ntuli (South Africa) as the vice-chairman. The 112<sup>th</sup> Council session is planned for June of 2014.

## 63rd session of the Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC 63)

---

The IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) held its 63<sup>rd</sup> session from 10 to 12 July 2013, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Nancy Karigithu (Kenya)

The Committee discussed and approved an Integrated Technical Cooperation Plan (ITCP). The ITCP will assist developing Member States increase their capacities to support IMO objectives. The ITCP includes regional support for Africa, Asia, the Pacific islands, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. It is organized into eight global programs. The global programs are diverse and address several objectives of IMO, including mitigating climate change, better training opportunities for mariners and administrations, and enhancement of maritime security.

The committee discussed its recent Maritime Country Profile initiative, where IMO Members are asked to submit a maritime profile of their nation to the IMO. These profiles can then be used to focus technical cooperation resources where they would be best used. The Committee requested that all members participate and subsequently, the U.S. recently submitted its profile for 2013.

It also discussed how the ITCP will prepare to support the upcoming mandatory Member State Audit Scheme. The countries' maritime profiles are expected to provide tremendous value in this regard so that members can be better prepared. The Netherlands kindly donated 20,000 Euros to help prepare administratively for the mandatory audit scheme.

Third party consultants introduced their report from a recent Impact Assessment Exercise. They noted that IMO's ITCP might have more impact per expended resource if they develop more e-learning capability, and conduct more national training, vice regional training.

The Committee also agreed that donor funding remains extremely important to sustain the ITCP and thanked its donors and encouraged them to continue their support.

Ms. Karigithu was re-elected as chairperson by acclamation. TCC 64 will meet again in June of 2014.

---

## 18th session of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC 18)

---

The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers was held September 16-20, 2013, under the chairmanship of Mr. Xie Hui (China).

The Sub-committee completed its work on Amendment 37-14 to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and, in particular, drafted amendments harmonizing the Code with the 18<sup>th</sup> Revised Edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Also included in Amendment 37-14 are changes to the requirements for the transport of small quantities of environmentally hazardous substances, based on a pro-

posal made by the United States. Additionally, several new special provisions were drafted to provide clarity on the different transport provisions for engines, machinery, and fuels.

The Sub-committee began work on draft Amendment 03-14 to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code, including consideration of numerous proposals for new cargo schedules. The Sub-committee concluded the correspondence group work on the carriage of iron ore fines, forwarding the prepared draft amendments to the Editorial and Technical (E&T) Group for finalization in Spring 2014. The Sub-committee also established a work-

ing group to develop a new section on environmentally hazardous substances, based on the requirements of MARPOL Annex V, within the Code.

The Sub-committee completed further work on amendments to SOLAS regulation VI/2, regarding mandatory verification of container transport unit (CTU) gross container weight prior to loading on vessels, based on the report of the correspondence group under the chairmanship of the United States. Finally, the sub-committee considered the draft Code of Practice for Packing Cargo Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units for

## DSC 18 (continued)

Consideration by the IMO/ILO/UNECE Group of Experts at its next meeting.

MODU Codes were finalized.

The Sub-committee also completed work on amendments to SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, related to the carriage requirements for portable instruments that test the atmosphere of enclosed spaces. In addition to draft amendments on instrument requirements for measuring oxygen, and flammable and toxic gases, a draft MSC Circular on Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere-testing instruments for enclosed spaces, and draft amendments to the 1979, 1989, and 2009

DSC meets next as the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) Sub-committee in September 2014.

### 59th session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 59)

The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 59) met at IMO Headquarters from 2-6 September 2013 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mike Sollosi (USA).

A welcoming address was provided by Secretary General Sekimizu in which he described his recent Arctic trip on a Russian icebreaker. He stated that a Northern Sea Route is indeed a reality thereby demonstrating the need for a Polar Code. He further stated that Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) should be at the top of the Sub-Committee's priority list and that NAV should seek to close gaps in coverage of charting.

The Sub-committee's agenda covered a wide range of topics which included routing of ships, ship reporting and related matters; application of the satellite navigation system "BeiDou" in the maritime field; International Telecommunications Union (ITU) matters; development of

an e-navigation strategy implementation plan; development of policy and new symbols for AIS aids to navigation; revisions of information in existing annexes to recommendation for the use of deep-sea pilots; revision of the Guidelines for the operational use of shipborne automatic identification systems (AIS); and consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO circulars. To address this wide span of technical matters, the US delegation included subject matter experts from the Coast Guard; the National Transportation Safety Board, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and the State Department, along with private sector advisors from the American Pilots Association; the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services.

#### Routing measures

The Sub-committee considered and approved four new routing measures which included: new traffic separation schemes (TSSs) off the

Pacific coast of Panama; new TSSs at the approaches to Puerto Cristóbal; Panama; a precautionary area at the approaches to Puerto Cristóbal and a three-part recommended two-way route in the Great Barrier Reef (North and South) and Torres Strait off Australia. The changes will move traffic away from areas of rich marine biodiversity and decrease the likelihood of ships encountering endangered whales.

The Sub-committee approved a proposal by the United States for the revocation of an existing Area to Be Avoided and a Mandatory No Anchoring Area at El Paso Deep-water Port in the Gulf of Mexico. These measures are no longer needed because of the decommissioning of the deep-water port.

#### Satellite Navigation

Concerning more technical matters, the Sub-committee considered a proposal by China concerning the



## NAV 59 (continued)

---

application of satellite navigation system “BeiDou” (BDS) in the maritime field. The Sub-committee approved the draft performance standards for shipborne BDS receiver equipment and recommended forwarding them to the MSC for adoption. In addition, the Sub-Committee will invite the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC) to develop relevant technical standards in testing for type approval of such equipment.

### **VHF data exchange system**

**(VDES)** The Sub-committee discussed the merits of the VHF data exchange system (VDES) which would integrate the functions of Automatic Identification System (AIS), ASM (Application Specific Messages) and VDE, and also include terrestrial and satellite components. The VDES concept allows the original use of AIS to continue with existing shipborne equipment and can utilize the high quality communications thus afforded by making new use of the VHF band. The Sub-Committee agreed that further development of the VDES concept should be supported by IMO.

### **Deep Sea Pilotage**

Another topic of interest was Deep Sea Pilotage. The Drafting Group's Assembly resolutions relating to 'Recommendations on the use of *adequately qualified deep sea pilots in the North Sea, English Channel and Skagerrak; and also the Baltic Sea*', were endorsed by the Sub-committee for consideration at the next IMO Assembly.

### **IACS Unified Interpretations**

Consideration of various IACS unified interpretations was also accomplished by the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee agreed with IACS UI COLREG 1 with respect to all-round lights. The Sub-Committee requested IACS consider its proposals regarding IACS UI SC 257 on pilot transfer arrangements and IACS UI SC 261 on performance standards for voyage data recorders (VDRs).

### **Polar Code**

Another topic of interest was the development of a mandatory code for

ships operating in polar waters. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) stated that some 95 percent of the Polar Regions were not surveyed and appropriate scale chart coverage was inadequate for coastal navigation. Mariners are urged to navigate with extreme caution and use recognized shipping corridors. Coastal and Antarctic Treaty States were also urged to fulfill their SOLAS obligations and prioritize the undertaking of primary systematic hydrographic surveys to provide safe navigable water for all ships operating in the Polar Regions.

### **Final NAV session**

The closing of NAV 59 marked the end of an era. Mr. Mike Sollosi and Captain Gurpreet Singhota, the Chairman and Secretary of NAV, respectively, announced that NAV 59 was their final meeting in those positions. Both received many accolades and standing ovations for their outstanding service and dedication to the maritime community. In addition, the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation no longer exists.