



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME RESCUE
FEDERATION

Improving Maritime SAR Capability Worldwide

ICAO Europe SAR WG

IMRF SAR Aviation Panel

Roly McKie



Who are the IMRF?

- A membership organisation dedicated to improving maritime SAR through the sharing of knowledge, information, experiences, lessons and mutual assistance
- Formed in 1924. Originally a lifeboat focused organisation.
- Recently expanded its interest into SAR aviation





“The benefit of being a member of IMRF is enormous.”

NIMASA, RMRCC Lagos



“Membership in IMRF gives the opportunity to be part of a larger community.”

Chairman of the Board, Estonian Voluntary Maritime Rescue Organization



“As a researcher, the IMRF provides an invaluable forum to meet other experts in the specialized field of maritime rescue.”

Ronald Pelot, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada

The IMRF has over 150 members in more than 50 countries worldwide.

Our members vary in size and type, including newly formed or long-established entities, governmental organisations, and other relevant maritime and aviation-supporting industries.




Lifeboats

“We highly recommend becoming a member of the IMRF. It serves as an excellent platform for exchanging information and networking with similar organisations globally dedicated to Search and Rescue efforts.”

RNLI, UK

**IMRF ANNUAL
MEETING 2025:
COLLABORATION,
INNOVATION, AND
GLOBAL PROGRESS IN
MARITIME SAR**





**IMRF LIFEBOAT CREW
EXCHANGE 2025:
BUILDING SKILLS,
FRIENDSHIPS, AND A
SHARED
COMMITMENT TO
SAVING LIVES**





**THE GLOBAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) SYSTEM
REVIEW**

<https://forms.office.com/e/28SgvkfM8u>



AVIATION SAR IN FOCUS AS IMRF HOSTS GADSS WEBINAR

IMRF SAR Aviation Panel

- provide a forum for members to share their aviation experiences and lessons, and identify challenges
- Promote harmonised global standards and practices for aviation SAR services and those working with aviation assets in SAR operations.
- Work to enhance safety, quality, and consistency in how aviation resources are used in maritime and aeronautical SAR missions.



Members

- Australia
- Portugal
- Finland
- UK
- South Africa
- China
- Norway
- Sweden
- USA
- Poland
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Malaysia



Key Functions



- Identify inconsistencies in current SAR aviation practices.
- Raise awareness of operational weaknesses that affect safety and efficiency.
- Support safe and effective practices by sharing operational learning and best practices among members.
- Provide a virtual forum for IMRF members — including aviation service providers, Coast Guards, and Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centres (ARCCs) to exchange experiences.
- Develop guidance for maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and rescue vessels to improve their understanding, operational interaction and use of aviation assets.
- Offer technical advice to IMRF on SAR-related discussions within ICAO, IMO, and other global forums.



Recommended Practices for ARCCs



Develop Training and Standards Guidance (TSG) for ARCCs, covering:

- ICAO Annex 12
- IAMSAR
- Communication protocols
- Operational planning and SAR techniques
- Integration of aviation and maritime assets
- Incident management and inter-agency collaboration
- Subject areas for training and competency maintenance of ARCC staff



Recent Panel Discussions

- Experiences of UAV / RPAS operations (Sweden and South Africa)
- Manned – unmanned air operations (Norway)
- Volunteer SAR air services (New Zealand)
- National certification processes (Australia)
- Missing aircraft location techniques (US research)
- ICAO-IMO SAR Joint Working Group discussions



