

Search and Rescue Plan

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Scope of Presentation

- Importance of completing a Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan to implement the SAR Convention
- *Global* SAR Plan (also called “IMO SAR Plan”)
- *Provisional* SAR Plan
- Proposal to help transition from the Provisional to the Global Plan

Search and Rescue Convention

- Urges States to:
 - Cooperate with neighboring States to ensure that SAR services are provided in all ocean areas (2.1.1, 2.1.3, 3.1.1)
 - Provide the Secretary General of IMO with information on arrangements for SAR services for inclusion in the Global SAR Plan (2.1.11)

Global Search and Rescue Plan

- For national and regional SAR systems, the SAR Plan contains information about:
 - SAR responsibilities and capabilities
 - How responsibilities are accepted and shared among nations in an ocean area

Global SAR Plan Information

- **Responsible SAR authorities**
- **Search and rescue regions (SRRs)**
- **Responsible maritime rescue co-ordination centers (MRCCs)**
- **Primary types of SAR facilities available (aircraft, boats, etc.)**
- **Communications**
- **Other information that might help persons in distress or other SAR authorities**

Global SAR Plan Objectives

- **Main objectives:**
 - **To ensure that SAR services are available wherever mariners might need assistance**
 - **To ensure that persons in distress, SAR communications service providers (CSPs), and SAR authorities know where to send or relay distress alerts (important!)**
- **Main method of achieving objectives is by establishing search and rescue regions (SRRs) and associated SAR services**

In the Words of the SAR Convention...

- *To help ensure the provision of adequate shore-based communications infrastructure, efficient distress alert routing, and proper operational coordination to effectively support search and rescue services, Parties shall, **individually or in co-operation with other States**, ensure that sufficient **search and rescue regions** are established within each sea area...Such regions should be contiguous and, as far as practicable, not overlap*

Harmonization with Aeronautical SAR

- **SAR Convention calls for close co-ordination between maritime and aeronautical services (Section 2.4)**
- **Done by:**
 - **common SRRs (maritime and aeronautical)**
 - **joint RCCs (maritime and aeronautical)**
 - **common SAR procedures (maritime and aeronautical)**
- **Aeronautical SRRs are described in Regional Air Navigation Plans (RANPs) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

Importance of the Global SAR Plan

- The SAR Convention cannot be implemented without a Global SAR Plan
- Since the SAR Convention entered into force in 1985, the incomplete Global SAR Plan has been a primary reason for the Convention's slow implementation
- Until the SAR Convention is implemented, much of its lifesaving potential cannot be achieved.

“Provisional” Search and Rescue Plan

- “Provisional” means interim or temporary
- Development of a Provisional Plan is IMO’s way of helping State’s to make progress toward completion of the Global SAR Plan
- The Provisional Plan is not intended to be used operationally as a substitute for the Global SAR Plan, but is intended to facilitate completion of the Global SAR Plan

Completing the Provisional Plan

- Many States and regions have had difficulties in providing SAR services, but many other States and regions have overcome these difficulties.
- Cooperation among neighboring States and use of all available resources will be necessary to develop an improved Provisional Plan
- Major effort made at “Regional IMO Seminar and Workshop on Maritime SAR and the GMDSS”, February 1992 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- Also, similar Workshop in 1995 in France

Making the Provisional Plan Global

- **Provisional and Global SAR Plans contain the same types of information, making the transition easier**
- **When Governments of neighboring States officially agree with the Provisional Plan or equivalent arrangements and inform the IMO Secretary General of the details, relevant portions of the Plan then lose their provisional (temporary) status**
- **This notification has normally been accomplished by submitting to the Secretary General a copy of an appropriate SAR agreement among the States concerned**

Summary so far...

- **Improvements in lifesaving depend on implementation of the SAR Convention**
- **Implementation of the SAR Convention depends on completion of the Global SAR Plan**
- **Completion of the Global SAR Plan depends on:**
 - **completion of the Provisional SAR Plan**
 - **acceptance of Provisional Plan by neighboring States**
 - **officially informing IMO of arrangements that States have determined are acceptable**

Provisional SAR Plan Status

- **Results to date published by IMO in SAR Circulars 2 and 3, with slightly more up-to-date data contained in Information Paper COMSAR 5/Inf2**
- **IMO is combining SAR Circulars 2 and 3. Paper copy will be published and will also be on IMO's Internet web site (www.imo.org)**

Notification of the Secretary General

- **Notification is necessary to complete the Global SAR Plan**
- **Traditionally done by submitting SAR agreements**
- **Since the Convention entered into force in 1985, very few States appear to have taken the initiative to negotiate, conclude and submit copies of SAR agreements to IMO**
- **Consequently, the Global SAR Plan is relatively incomplete**
- **Steps need to be taken to complete the Global SAR Plan**

IMO Assembly Resolution

- **Recent IMO Maritime Safety Committee meeting approved a draft Assembly Resolution**
- **The Resolution:**
 - **Calls for more States to become Parties to the SAR Convention**
 - **Urges states, as far as practical, to take some steps for SAR**
 - **Invites governments to provide technical assistance for the provision and coordination of SAR services to requesting States**

Next Steps for Each State

Excellent Question and Idea.