

# **UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP**

## **MARITIME AND AVIATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING OF 19 JUNE 2001**

1. This was the inaugural meeting of the Consultative Committee following the introduction of the new UKSAR structure. All members of the Committee were asked to introduce themselves.
2. The Committee were given a presentation on the history of the UKSAR structure and the reasoning for the revision in the structure. The Committee were provided with a copy of the presentation and the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the various Committees and Working Groups within the UKSAR "family".
3. Members of the Committee had been provided with the proposed ToR for the Committee prior to the meeting, which had been agreed by the UKSAR Operators Group. The Committee were reminded that they did not have any executive powers but any areas of concern would be raised through the UKSAR Operators Group via the Chairman.
4. The members of the Committee were advised that Inland Consultative Committee and Operators Group minutes would be circulated to them and vice versa to ensure that members were fully aware of all the current issues. The Chairman explained that a number of Operators Group meeting had been held to agree the revised UKSAR structure. The Chairman advised the Committee members that the Operators Group were keen to ensure that full consultation took place,
5. The Committee were advised of the other Working Groups which had been formed under the revised structure and appraised of the work they were undertaking.
6. One of the main issues the Committee considered was the use of mobile phones to alert the SAR services in the marine environment. It was acknowledged that considerable publicity had been promulgated about the inherent problems associated with using mobile phones in areas they were not designed for. The Committee also acknowledged that despite the publicity people continued to use mobile phones in areas which it was inappropriate. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the SAR Communications Working Group to discuss the issue and try to identify a way forward.
7. The Chairman advised the Committee about the Thames SAR risk assessment work and explained that HMCG would be establishing a station at the Thames Barrier Navigation Centre (TBNC). The RNLI would be providing 3 fully manned lifeboats at Chiswick, Tower Pier and Gravesend. The new arrangements would come into force on 2 January 2002.
8. The Chairman also advised the Committee that the RNLI were running pilot schemes with regard to placing Lifeboats on some inland waters. The RNLI were

also running pilot Beach Rescue Services at four locations in the South West of England.

9. The Committee discussed the current membership and agreed that invitations to join should be extended to the UK Harbourmasters Association and the British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC).