

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

## **MARITIME AND AVIATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2001**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on 19 June 2001 were agreed.
2. New members of the Group were introduced to the Committee.
3. The UK Harbourmasters Association had accepted the invitation to join the Committee. However the Committee discussed the membership for Diving associations and agreed that as there were so many organisations representing divers that it would be more appropriate to invite diving associations to attend meetings when necessary. It was also agreed that HSE would be invited where appropriate.
4. The Committee were provided with an update on the production of the UKSAR Framework Document which was currently under development. The Committee were advised that the UKSAR Operators Group were the custodian of the document. The Committee were also advised that the final document would be available free of charge and would also be published on the MCA website and the UKSAR website in a downloadable format. The document would be updated on a regular basis to ensure that it remained current.
5. The Committee were provided with an update on the recent UKSAR Operators Group meetings. The Committee were apprised of the changes of the parental departments of the various SAR organisations following the Government reshuffle. UKSAR had been represented at the recent Nottingham Inland Water Safety Conference, at which there had been a discussion on emergency planning and flood relief. The Committee were reminded that it was important that there was a consistent UKSAR message at all conferences and seminars.
6. The Committee were given a presentation on the work of the UKSAR Communications Working Group by its Chairman. The Committee discussed the problem of the use of mobile phones in an emergency. It was recognised that a number of small craft owners continued to rely on mobile phones even though advice had been provided about the inherent dangers of using mobile phones in the marine environment. The Committee acknowledged that mobile phones were here to stay and that a policy and educational programme needed to be developed. The use of mobile phones had been placed on the agenda for the Operators Group meeting.
7. The Committee were given an update on the progress of the SAR arrangements on the river Thames. The arrangements were due to be completed and in place prior to the launch date of 2 January 2002.

8. The Group were advised that the RNLI were in the process of running two pilot schemes one for beach rescues and one for inland water rescue. The group would be appraised of the outcomes of the schemes following their conclusion.

9. The Committee discussed the application of the National Air Ambulance Association to become a member, which was agreed.