

AMERC News

Issue 72 – Incorporates Circular 293

February 2020

Editorial

Welcome to issue 72 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 293** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors / examiners by their AMERC centre contact.

In this issue we have a report from the latest Executive committee meeting held in December. Also have our usual brief on the most recent **Maritime Consultation Group** (MCG – Page 2), and the **NAC Statistics Report** for GMDSS examinations.

‘Maritime Miscellaneous’ (page 3) is part of a very interesting report from the Maritime Journal with regards to the changing of Poland’s Inland Waterways Becoming International Shipping Routes. This has been passed to me by Ian Waugh, thanks Ian!

GMDSS Criss-Cross has made a return and is on page 4. Answers will be given in the next edition.

‘Tales from the Key-Side, ‘Member Profile(s)’ is again taking a break for this edition. If anyone wishes for a feature please let us know. This is open to anyone – whether a new member, a member/centre not previously featured, or anyone with any notable changes. If you would like to feature in future editions – get in touch!

*Your submissions are always welcome for **Explanation Please? Member Profile, Maritime Misc.’** and **Tales from the Key-Side** – and other items that were likely to be of interest to others.*

We have been enjoying busy times again here at East Coast College. Looking forward to hearing from some of you with ideas for future newsletter issues. Enjoy!

Barrie

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The **Maritime Consultation Group** (MCG) meets regularly - currently four times each year – for the AMERC Executive Committee ‘Open Meeting’. MCG membership consists of AMERC Executive Committee (EC) representatives; the AMERC Chief Examiner; the MCA Chief Examiner and/or the MCA Deck & GMDSS Team Leader; the NAC and other AMERC/industry specialists.

The latest meeting was held in London in December 2019. The following items reflect discussions at MCG (full minutes will be circulated appropriately) - and/or associated items that may be of interest to Members and training centres. The items are placed according to size - not in any ‘priority’ order.

NAC Statistics Report

GOC exam numbers have decreased by 12% from the same period last year and overseas exams have decreased by 3%.

The UK and overseas first-time rate remains mostly the same.

ROC exam numbers have decreased by 6% for the UK but overseas have remained comparable to last year.

The first-time pass rate for the UK exams have decreased by almost 5% but has remained about the same for overseas exams.

LRC exams in the UK have increased by 52% and overseas LRC exams have decreased by 39% since last year.

Overall there has been 1844 certificates issued by the NAC for this year. Compared to 1873 for the previous year.

Chief Examiner Reports

The Chief Examiner has visited some centres during the last few months with some issues. These include:

- Rounding of times for the OPT exams
- Course notes not updated.

Otherwise all is good, keep it up everybody!

Examiner Status Approvals

Two probationary examiners were approved to full examiner status, David King and Achille Bonta.

Arijit Mukherjee, Mohammad Kamrul Hasan and Hayley Morden were successful at being given probationary examiner status.

Congratulations and welcome.

AGM 2020

AGM 2020 and Examiners’ Panel: Our upcoming AGM & Examiner’s Panel will be held in London on Thursday 4th June, followed by the AGM dinner. More detail regarding the programme, timing, and venue were provided direct to Members by the Secretary in the pre-AGM notice dated 10th February Circular 292. (If you are a full or associate member and you have not received this email, please check your junk email box and “whitelist” any correspondence from amerc.secretary@gmail.com)

GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report: National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1st October 2018 – 30th September 2019** are shown below:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1 st time)	PASSED (1 st attempt)	% PASSED 1 ST ATTEMPT
UK GOC	871 (792)	782 (711)	711/871 (89.77%)
ALL GOC	1725 (1583)	1563 (1432)	1432/1725 (90.46%)
UK ROC	115 (110)	108 (103)	103/115 (93.64%)
ALL ROC	170 (161)	159 (150)	150/170 (93.17%)
LRC	125 (124)	121 (121)	121/124 (97.58%)

Maritime Miscellaneous

POLAND'S INLAND WATERWAYS TO BECOME 'INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING ROUTES'

Prospects for modernizing Polish inland waterways are shaped by the EU and environmental factors writes Gordon Feller.

The EU has increasingly recognized that inland waterway transportation is one of the cheapest and most environmentally friendly types of transportation – especially when compared with other forms of transportation. This is due to its relatively lower energy consumption, lower air pollutant emissions, relatively lower water pollution, and lower external costs.

Inland waterways are increasingly being classified by the EU as a form of “sustainable transportation”, since the measured impacts taking -- economic, social, and environmental – are so favorable.

INVESTMENT REQUIRED

However, in order to be truly sustainable, investments are needed in the hydro technical infrastructure on rivers and canals, as well as in fleets. Attention is therefore being paid to multiple environmental factors, including the size and seasonal variability of water resources, so the feasibility of inland waterway transport can best be determined.

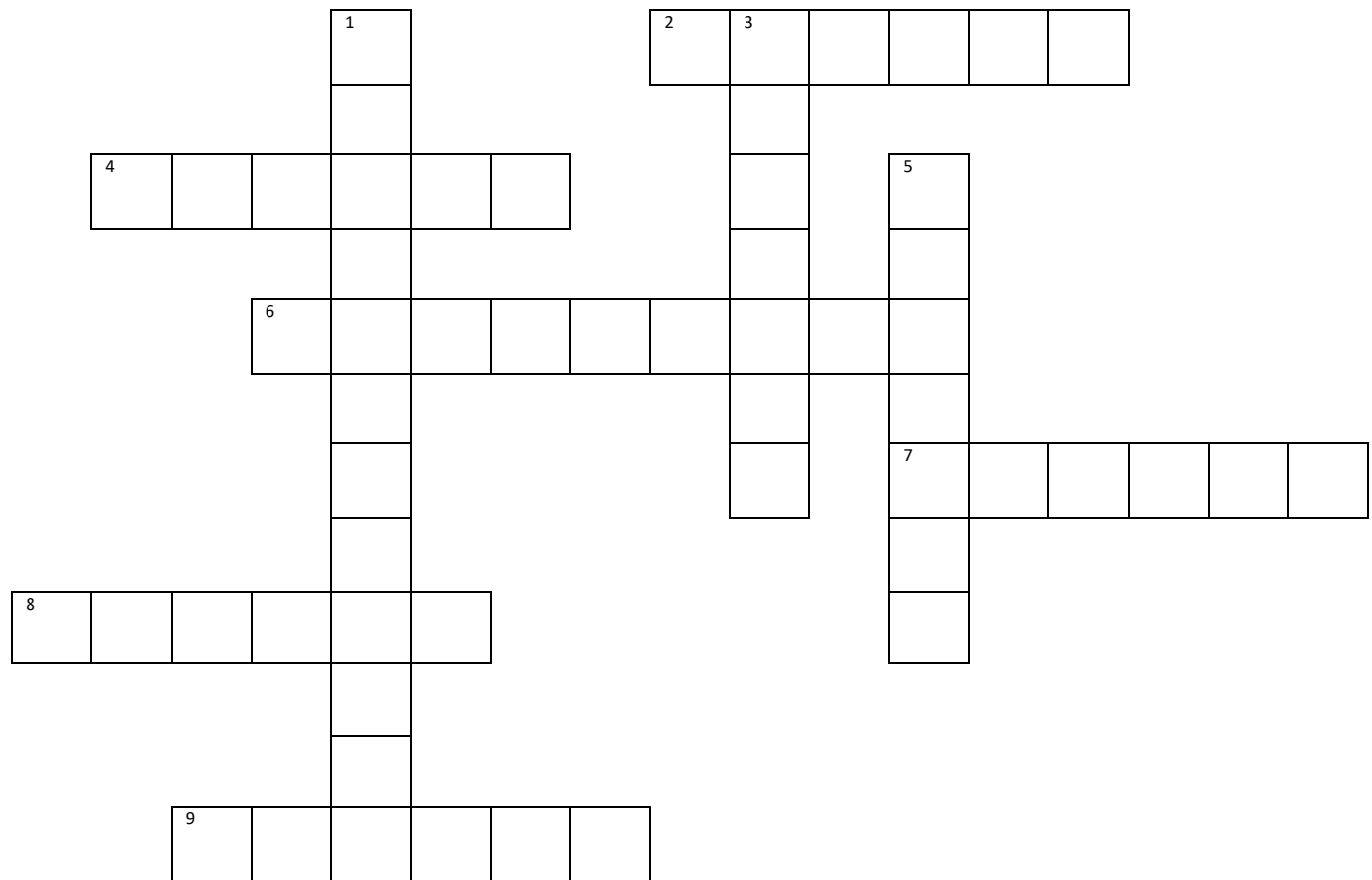
In 2017, the President of Poland signed the act to ratify “The European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance”. According to the Agreement’s provisions, Polish waterways will become international shipping routes by developing and modernizing them up to class IV navigability. There is another impetus: the document entitled “Assumptions of the Development Programmes for Inland Waterways in Poland for 2016–2020 with an outlook to the year 2030”, as laid out by Poland’s Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation. The Agreement’s purpose was to establish the necessary legal framework - which makes it easier to construct a world-class inland waterways network.

“The White Paper”, as adopted by the European Commission, set out initiatives which could unify the European transport area using inland waterways - with a target date of 2050. They include creating favorable conditions for increasing the use of inland waterways, and for upgrading them. The Commission says that, by the end of 2050, at least 50% of transportation over a distance of 300km must be transported by means other than road transport.

Poland has relatively few water resources, and the average annual surface water outflow in Poland is about 60 billion m³. The lower part of the Vistula River holds about 65% of the water resources in its basin, and about 30% of the hydroelectric potential of Poland.

The full article can be found at - <https://www.maritimejournal.com/news101/marine-civils/port,-harbour-and-marine-construction/polands-inland-waterways-to-become-international-shipping-routes>

GMDSS Criss-Cross Edition 72 - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS / ADRS, *where appropriate*. Readers might also like to test their knowledge of international geography by using the [Triviaplaza geography quizzes](http://Triviaplaza.com) website (where you might also find one or more of the answers required below).



Across

- 2 – Issuing authority for Artic Navarea XVII
- 4 – HF Station Western Australia
- 6 Capital City of Cambodia
- 7 – MMSI number 002191000
- 8 – Southernmost Navtex station
- 9 – Largest river in South America

Down

- 1 – What country would you find Cape Agulhas?
- 3 – Belgium’s main port
- 5 – River for 3 down