



WORLD MARITIME RESCUE CONGRESS 2023

Call for Abstracts

Introduction

The International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)'s World Maritime Rescue Congress (www.wmrc2023.com) takes place every four years. It is, we believe, the largest event of its kind in the world. It is open to all with an interest in search and rescue.

The 2023 Congress will be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 18-20 June 2023.

There will be a live SAR demonstration on Sunday 18 June, but Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 June will be devoted to a conference based on talks, discussions and workshops. The conference sessions will be divided into three threads, running concurrently, enabling Congress attendees to choose the subjects that most interest them.

You are now invited to propose papers for discussion at the Congress.

Congress theme, and conference thread headings

The overall theme for WMRC 2023 is ***Towards sustainable maritime SAR – building on our history to secure our future.***

The headings of the three conference threads are:

- 'SAR operations today'
- 'Sharing SAR experience'
- 'The future sustainability of SAR'

A Congress programme working group has agreed a number of sub-headings for each of these threads: please see below.

Speakers will be asked to present their subjects in the light of the overall theme and the thread headings and sub-headings. The programme working group will assign accepted presentations to one of the three threads as appropriate.

Speaking opportunities and publication

Speaking slots in the main conference will – in general - be strictly limited to 15 minutes, not including questions or discussion. Please note that session chairs will be asked to enforce the 15 minute limit, to ensure that all speakers, and their audiences, are treated fairly.

'Poster sessions' will be available as an alternative to speaking in the main conference. These will be opportunities for informal presentations and/or discussions in the Congress exhibition space.

Authors / presenters must ensure that they, and the IMRF, have permission to use any copyrighted material, including images etc.

The IMRF will publish papers submitted as part of the Congress proceedings, online, in free downloadable pdf format. The IMRF may also seek the author's permission to make other use of the material submitted. Copyright will remain with the author, who may refuse or limit permission to publish or otherwise use her or his material: the IMRF will rigorously respect any such limitation.

Authors may submit amended documents for publication, including more or less detail as they wish. The IMRF reserves the right not to publish an amended document if any concerns it gives rise to cannot be resolved with the author.

Submission of abstracts for consideration

Abstracts will be accepted for consideration from 17 October 2022, with a deadline of 3 February 2023. Details of the submission process will be posted on www.wmrc2023.com in due course.

Papers should:

- Identify their author, including contact details
- Identify any other copyright owners, including contact details
- Include a heading describing the subject to be covered in the paper
- Show how the paper relates to the Congress's main and subsidiary themes
- Provide a detailed summary of the paper's contents, including
 - aspects that would be covered in a presentation at WMRC 2023
 - additional material proposed for publication, if any.

Having considered your abstract, the programme working group will advise if a speaking slot can be made available to you. If it cannot, a poster session and/or publication opportunity may be made available. In all cases the IMRF's decision, advised by the programme working group, will be final.

If your abstract is accepted, the programme working group will keep you advised as to when it can be presented. You may, with the working group's consent, make minor alterations to your abstract, up to 1 May 2023.

Congress fees and speakers' expenses

The IMRF regrets that it cannot cover speakers' expenses at the World Maritime Rescue Congress. The IMRF is a charity, seeking to improve maritime SAR capability worldwide; and Congress fees are deliberately kept lower than comparable commercial events, to better enable SAR people to attend. Speakers' travel and accommodation expenses must therefore be their own responsibility.

However, speakers accepted by the programme working group, and approved by the IMRF, may attend the Congress at discounted rates.

For IMRF member organisation delegates, including speakers, the attendance fee will be Euro 465 plus VAT if registered before 17 March 2023.

For accepted speakers *not* from IMRF member organisations the fee will be discounted to Euro 560 if registered before 17 March 2023 .

If you are not an IMRF member, and would like to enquire about membership, please email info@imrf.org.uk.

Thread sub-headings

The following examples are provided as guidance. These are subjects that the programme working group would like to see covered during the Congress, but the list is not exclusive. The working group will carefully consider other subjects proposed.

Several of the sub-headings will fit in more than one thread. This is to provide flexibility. The working group will decide where to place papers submitted as the programme is filled in.

‘SAR operations today’

- Water safety and drowning prevention – the role of education in reducing the number and/or severity of maritime emergencies
- SAR mission coordination – best practices and recent developments
- SAR in the broader context – working with the wider maritime sector to plan for and manage complex incidents.
- SAR in remote locations – how to conduct SAR operations when resources are few in number and/or have severely limited capability
- SAR across boundaries – SAR organisations sometimes need to work in environments where the lifesaving imperative runs up against others

‘Sharing SAR lessons’

- Improving inter-agency communications – why does the SAR community seem to find sharing lessons difficult, and what can be done about it?
- Specific SAR case studies, with operational lessons identified
- Supporting SAR development – how best to support governmental and non-governmental organisations, especially start-up organisations, in developing maritime SAR capability
- Social media: helping or hurting? – how to manage social media input
- Getting the message out – SAR, public safety and social media
- Mental health awareness
- Managing traumatic stress – post-traumatic stress among SAR responders and how organisations should be aware of and manage it
- Working with medical services

‘The future of SAR’

The emphasis in this thread will be on future challenges and possible solutions. Subjects likely to be included would be:

- Equality of opportunity for all in SAR – how can we promote diversity and inclusion in a SAR setting?

- Greener SAR operations – what SAR organisations can do to reduce their own environmental footprint
- Benefits and challenges of new technologies and innovation, including remotely-piloted aircraft and autonomous vessels, alternative fuels and propulsion methods
- SAR software and simulation
- The consequences of extreme weather events on planning and preparing SAR operations, including risk management and training.
- Recruitment, retention, training and people management, including volunteers
- Developing maritime SAR capacity locally, especially with and within indigenous communities
- Financing what we do in a difficult economic climate – a focus on different funding models, predicted changes over time, new developments, key messages and innovative campaigning
- New management strategies for not-for-profit organisations.
- SAR challenges in a world of political turmoil
- The impact of maritime SAR on the implementation of the UN sustainable Development Goals.

Further information

For further information, please contact wmrc2023-program@icsevents.com .

We look forward to hearing from you!

The WMRC 2023 Programme Working Group