

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW BLACK SEA SUB-AREA COORDINATOR WITHIN NAVAREA III

Submitted by Turkey / Directorate General of Turkish Coastal Safety

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document relates to the establishment of a new Black Sea Sub- Area Coordinator within NAVAREA III and Turkey's willingness and ability to bear the responsibility of this function.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 13

Related documents: CPRNW9-3-2-1-III Paragraph 5.2

Need For a Black Sea Sub-Area Coordinator within NAVAREA III

1. Vessel traffic in the Black Sea is significantly increasing due to several reasons, primarily the growth of trade. According to 2007 statistics, 56606 vessels have passed through Istanbul Strait, 10054 of which were carrying dangerous goods. Besides, the maritime transport between the Black Sea littoral states is also increasing.
2. Weather and sea conditions, inadequacy of places of refuge and anchorage makes the Black Sea a difficult sea area for navigation. In this regard, close monitoring and efficient orientation of vessel traffic becomes an indispensable condition for ensuring navigational safety in the Black Sea. In this respect, establishment of a new Sub-Area for the Black Sea would increase the efficiency of navigational warnings services in the region.

Turkey's Capabilities in the Region

3. Having the longest coastline in the Black Sea and necessary capabilities in terms of infrastructure and human resources, Turkey provides a large contribution to maritime safety in the Black Sea.
4. Turkey, with its four NAVTEX stations, has been a reliable provider of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) warnings since 1987. Two of these stations, namely Istanbul and Samsun stations, are able to cover almost the whole Black Sea.
5. HF NBDP system has been used in Istanbul NAVTEX station in order to increase its coverage area. Modernization of NAVTEX stations and MF systems were accomplished in 2004, rendering these infrastructures capable for remote control from Istanbul Control Center.
6. MSI Services are provided on a 7 days 24 hours basis. NAVTEX Stations are transmitting MSI warnings both in English and Turkish on 518 KHz and 490 KHz/4209.5 KHz Bands

respectively. MSI broadcasts are recorded to the system by being classified according to sea areas and automatically transmitted on time.

7. Other communication systems (VHF, MF and HF) are also available to promulgate MSI warnings if needed. Turkish Coastal Radio Stations broadcast instant warnings and 24-72 hours weather forecasts both in written and verbal formats on VHF, MF and HF bands.
8. Turkey has also fully implemented the distress and safety communication requirements of the GMDSS by establishing VHF-DSC system in 1995 and MF-HF-DSC system in 2004 and making possible HF-DSC ship-to-shore tests on 4,6,8,12,16 MHz bands for vessels on long range. Furthermore, modernization projects of these systems have also been accomplished.
9. Turkey is also a reliable search and rescue service provider in its SAR region in the Black Sea. The implementation of the Cospas-Sarsat system in Turkey since 2006 has significantly increased the effectiveness of SAR services.
10. The establishment of AIS Base stations along the entire Turkish coastline constitutes another major asset for ensuring maritime safety in surrounding seas. Turkey's AIS infrastructure, which has been active since July 2007, covers almost the whole Black Sea. Mountains with an altitude of more than 1500 meters and situated closely to the shore of the Black Sea, make it possible for these AIS base stations to have such a large coverage area.
11. The Directorate General of Coastal Safety is the National Coordinator for navigational safety related services in Turkey and incorporates also Turk Radio as the Accounting Authority.
12. Consequently, Turkey has the necessary means and capabilities as well as qualified personnel for enhancing maritime safety in her surrounding seas. In this regard, Turkey declares its willingness and ability to bear the responsibility of the Black Sea Sub-Area Coordinator within NAVAREA III and to become the Sub-Coordinator of the Marine Safety Information Broadcast in this region.

Action requested of the Commission

13. The Committee is requested:
 - to note the information provided in relation to the need for a Black Sea Sub-Area Coordinator within NAVAREA III,
 - to consider the proposal of Turkey to be assigned as Sub-Area Coordinator for the Black Sea to be established within NAVAREA III.