

Buenos Aires, Argentina

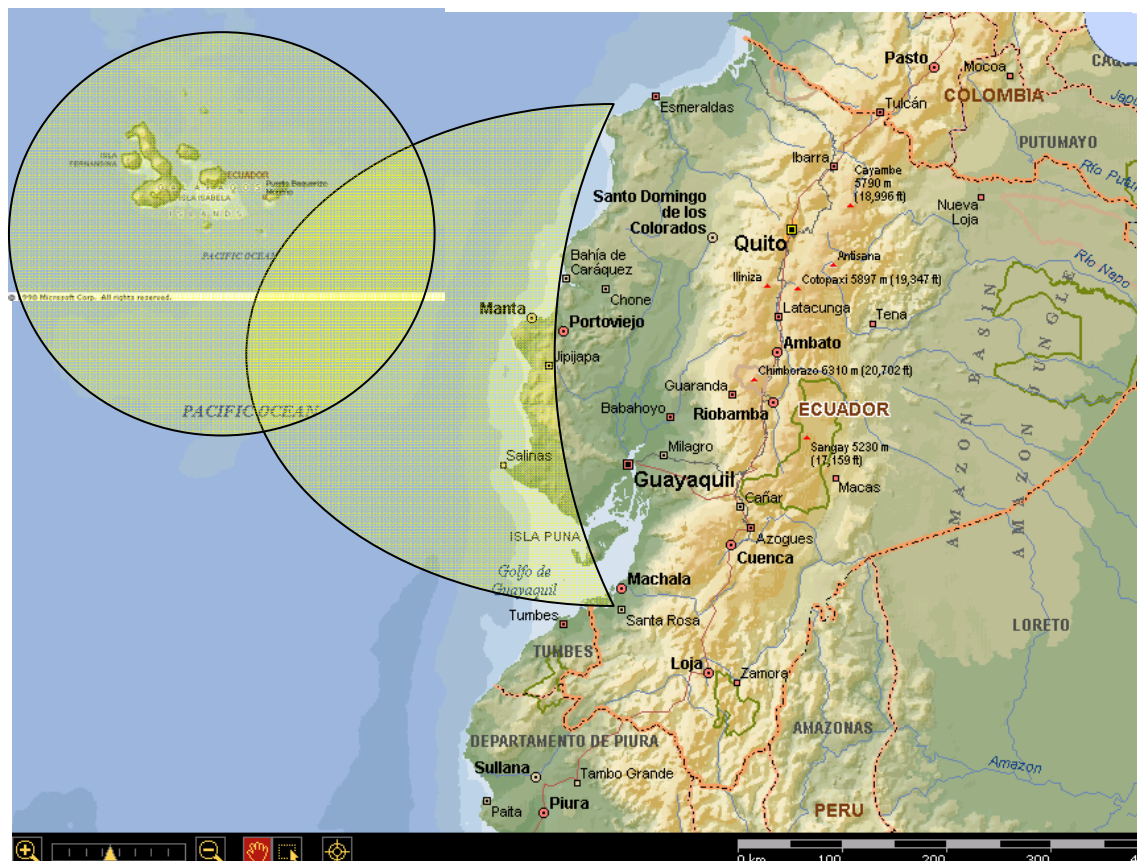
Origin: Ecuador

12 – 15 September 2006

IP ON MSI PROMULGATION IN NAVAREA XII – Ecuador

1. BACKGROUND.

Ecuador is responsible for the local tx. of MSI in two areas: the continental waters and the waters around the Galapagos Islands. The following picture shows the planned Navtex coverage in the area of responsibility:



The information for promulgation is generated at the Ecuadorian Oceanographic Institute INOCAR (navigational warnings and meteorology), and later disseminated by the Mobile Maritime Service which is run by the Merchant Marine Director (who also generates safety information).

2. COMMENTS.

The Maritime Safety Information is broadcast since 2004 in an area of 50 NM around the island of Santa Cruz on the Galápagos Islands by the Puerto Ayora Radio

Station on 518 Khz in English and 490 Khz in Spanish. The information is also disseminated on the local VHF channel 26, on a public radio on the Galapagos Islands, Radio Santa Cruz. On the continent it is only broadcast on channel 26 VHF and for public broadcast, Radio Naval on 1510 Khz is used. There is a web site info available as indicated further ahead in this paper.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES.

The implementation plan has just finished Phase I which gave Ecuadorian authority the ability of tx for an area of 50 NM around the island of Santa Cruz. In it's first year of operation it covered a users group of 121.000 persons considering the passengers attended by the cruise industry in and around the islands. Phase II consists in the expansion of the capacity in order to cover all the Galápagos archipelago: therefore tx stations will be installed on the islands of Isabela (Cerro Selva Negra), San Cristóbal (Cerro San Joaquín) and Floreana (Cerro Pajas). This second part is now in the Ministry of Finance in order to get funded either by local or external financial resources. It is estimated to finish this part at the end of 2007. All the stations on the islands are to be controlled by the Puerto Ayora Radio.

Phase III of the project is the implementation on the continent with one net control station located in Manta and HF, MF tx nearby, as well as VHF tx in 5 locations along the shoreline, all connected with a data transmission net already installed. The implementation of this phase is expected to finish the year 2009 depending on the existence of funding. Meanwhile as said above, in continental waters navigational warnings are broadcast on channel 26 VHF, a public radio and can be obtained out of the website: www.inocar.mil.ec, which is updated daily and on demand.

4. CONTACT INFO.

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NAVTEX IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT.

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