

Proposal for changes to Annex 8 of GMDSS Master Plan

Submitted by NAVAREA I

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This paper proposes some changes to the layout and information contained in Annex 8 of the GMDSS Master Plan.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: MSC.1/Circ.1382
GMDSS.1/Circ.13

Introduction

1. The IMO Master plan of shore-based facilities for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS Master Plan) has been the repository for all official information provided to the IMO by Administrations, national authorities responsible for shore-based facilities for the GMDSS, NAV/MET Area Coordinators and search and rescue authorities. Since 1991 this document has provided one of the major sources of information for international hydrographic organisations on which to base any data published in national Lists of Radio Signals.
2. In November 2010, MSC88 agreed a revision of MSC/Circ.684 and produced MSC.1/Circ.1382, which up-dated the format of the questionnaire. During this process, the opportunity to amend Annexes 7 and 8 was overlooked by the WWNWS Sub-committee.
3. Annex 7 (NAVTEX SERVICES) has stood the test of time as the International NAVTEX Service had been well established when the first edition of the Master Plan was produced.
4. Annex 8 (INTERNATIONAL SAFETYNET SERVICE), however, has been inconsistently populated as more and more SafetyNET services have been established over the years, until we have reached the present situation of total coverage (including the Arctic region). The problem seems to have evolved as more differing types of information than were originally expected to be recorded in this table have gradually been added.

Proposal

5. Annex 1 of this paper proposes some changes to the headings and data fill in the current Annex 8 of the Master Plan, which will also require a review of the data and lay-out, in an effort to end up with a more consistent and coherent document.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the suggested changes at Annex 1 and request the IHB, in liaison with the IMO Secretariat, to submit a paper to COMSAR 16 containing the final proposals.

Annex 1

Suggestions to reformat Columns 4, 5 and 6 to Annex 8 of GMDSS Master Plan:

A) Change title of **Column 4** to **LES/LESO**

Justification: As more and more LESs become “*virtual stations*”, it is more important to know who the Land Earth Station Operator (Service Provider) is, rather than the location of the satellite aerial transmitter site.

B) Change title of **Column 5** to **Ocean Region/LES ID**.

Justification: These IDs very rarely change, but it would be helpful to have them here, because they are always shown on the SafetyNET receiver display (see screen shot below). This is a quick way to identify where the messages have come from.

Disk Filename	Modem Filename	LES	Service	Priority	Bits	Date & Time	Size	Ref.No.	Routing
07012405.egc	EGC.915	321	MET/NAV Warning/Forecast	Safety	7 Bit IA5	07-01-24 04:31	2159	1409	Prn+Mem
07012403.egc	EGC.913	321	SAR Coordination	Safety	7 Bit IA5	07-01-24 04:03	1561	1408	Prn+Mem
07012211.egc	EGC.854	304	Distress Alert Relay	Distress	7 Bit IA5	07-01-23 01:14	732	9153	Prn+Mem
07012210.egc	EGC.829	322	Coastal Warning/Forecast	Safety	7 Bit IA5	07-01-22 22:04	232	739	Prn+Mem
07012207.egc	EGC.826	317	NAV Warning	Safety	7 Bit IA5	07-01-22 21:03	2260	681	Prn+Mem
07012206.egc	EGC.825	322	MET Warning	Safety	7 Bit IA5	07-01-22 20:46	614	3570	Prn+Mem

C) Change title of **Column 6**, to “MSI Coastal Warning Area (if applicable)” and use only to record this information, supplemented by a diagram – as is currently done for NAVAREAs X and XIV.

Justification: Column 6 has been inconsistently used for some years by different NAVAREA Co-ordinators, because the current title of “Area Covered” is not concise enough. Example of differing usage:

- Some are just putting their NAVAREA Number - this is not necessary as it will always be the same as Column 1
- Some have quoted a specific National SAR Region which is inconsistent and confusing. This table should only record which administrations have been granted a SAR SafetyNET certificate for within the NAVAREA. All other SAR data is contained IMO SAR Circular
- Some have put their national Met Areas or General Areas – this is of no use without a diagram (See NAVAREA X diagram)
- Some have put the co-ordinates of their NAVAREA – this Annex is not the suitable place for this information which should be collated and held by IHO WNWNS-SC

D) Remove all references to **Inmarsat Special Access Codes (SACs)**

Justification: SACs are not an established requirement of the GMDSS, therefore should not be included in Annex 8.

Current table:

NAV/MET Area	Type of MSI	Country	LES	Ocean Area	Area Covered ⁽¹⁾	Broadcast schedule (UTC)	Status of implementation
	NAV						
	MET						
	SAR						
	Coastal warning				(2)		

(1) Service area covered in NAV/MET information

(2) Provide a map indicating Area covered and B1 characters

The new table (changes in red) would look like the following example for NAVAREA IV:

NAV = NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS

MET = METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

SAR = SEARCH AND RESCUE ALERTS

* = NAVAREA COORDINATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AREA

** = THE ISSUING MEMBER NOMINATED BY WMO FOR METAREA SERVICES, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AREA

NAV/MET Area	Type of MSI	Country	LES/LESO	Ocean Region/ LES ID	MSI Coastal Warning Area ⁽¹⁾ (if applicable)	Broadcast schedule (UTC)	Status of implementation
IV	NAV	United States*	Southbury / Vizada	AOR-E / 101 AOR-W / 001		1000, 2200	Operational
		French West Indies (France)	Aussaguel / Vizada	AOR-W / 021	French West Indies B ₁ Code = C (see diagram)	0900, 2100	Operational
		French Guyana (France)	Aussaguel / Vizada	AOR-W / 021	French Guyana B ₁ Code = A (see diagram)	0900, 2100	Operational
	MET	United States**	Southbury / Vizada	AOR-E / 101 AOR-W / 001		0430, 1030, 1630, 2230	Operational
	SAR	United States	Southbury / Vizada	AOR-E / 101 AOR-W / 001			Operational
		Canada	Southbury / Vizada	AOR-E / 101 AOR-W / 001			Operational

(1) Provide a diagram showing limits of Coastal Warning Areas, including B₁ Codes

General comment: Repeating “+ on receipt” or “As occasion demands” in Column 7 is not necessary as it can be taken for granted.

