

Long Term NAVAREA Warnings

Submitted by Navarea III Coordinator (Spain)

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document outlines the issues of long term information and the way this information is dealt with by several MSI publications.

Action to be taken: 2

Related documents: A. Res(706)17, Revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI

1. Background

1.1 This NAVAREA III Co-ordinator often deals with long term information (year-long firing exercises, establishment of oil rigs or fish farm for several years, or lights unlit for months), which slows down and even clogs information management.

a) Such information as described above is broadcast as a NAVAREA warning, and may remain in force and being broadcast during months or sometimes even years according to para 4.1.2 of A. Res(706)17 & para 4.1.5 of the Revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI :

*Navigational warnings **shall remain in force until cancelled by the originating coordinator**. Navigational warnings should **be broadcast for as long as the information is valid**; however, if they are readily available to mariners by other official means, for example in Notices to Mariners, then after a period of **six weeks** they may no longer be broadcast.*

b) However, the sections of the aforementioned publications devoted to definitions state the following:

*Navigational warning means a message containing **urgent information** relevant to safe navigation broadcast to ships in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.*

c) This NAVAREA III Co-ordinator considers that this definition of a *Navigational warning (urgent information)*, as per item 1.1.b above, and the compulsory broadcasting period and requirement to remain in force for *Navigational warnings*, as per item 1.1.a above, may be in contradiction as information that has been broadcast for months cannot be considered as urgent after the initial broadcast.

1.2 Also, this NAVAREA III Co-ordinator asks the Sub-Committee whether such *official means* specified in item 1.1.a above could be interpreted to include the information made available by NAVAREA co-ordinators in their websites.

2. Action requested.

The Sub-Committee is asked to revise para 4.1.2 of A. Res(706)17 & para 4.1.5 of the Revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI, and submit a new wording to the required authority (COMSAR, MSC, etc) so that they read as follows:

*Navigational warnings shall remain in force until cancelled by the originating coordinator **or after a period of xxx weeks/months will be cancelled as “broadcasted over a long period”** (or any other formula with a similar meaning to allow their cancellation after a certain time).*

*Navigational warnings should be broadcast for as long as the information is valid; however, if they are readily available to mariners by other official means, for example in Notices to Mariners or **the information included on the NAVAREA Coordinators web site**, then after a period of six weeks they may no longer be broadcast.*