

### **List of “old” NAVAREA warnings still in force**

Submitted by NAVAREA I Co-ordinator

#### **SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: This paper invites the WWNWS-SC to establish consistent procedures amongst all NAVAREA Co-ordinators to enable mariners to obtain the full text of all extant NAVAREA warnings in force which are no longer being broadcast.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: IMO Res A.705(17), A.706(17) and A.893(21)  
SOLAS Chapters IV & V

#### **Introduction**

1. Following a recent change in procedures within the UKHO, “selected important warnings” from other NAVAREAs are no longer reproduced in Section III of Admiralty Notices to Mariners (NMs). Subsequent comments received from mariners have highlighted a lack of understanding of the procedures for maintaining an up-to-date list of NAVAREA warnings in force. This has also raised the issue of the lack of consistency amongst each NAVAREA as to how mariners can obtain the full text of all NAVAREA warnings in-force (including those that are no longer being broadcast via SafetyNET).
2. The use of web-sites by NAVAREA Co-ordinators to publish a full list of messages in force has increased over the past few years. However, it remains a fact that this is not currently an approved method for mariners to receive MSI in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, or the guidelines contained in IMO Res A.705(17) and A.706(17) as amended.

#### **Procedures followed by NAVAREA I**

3. The full text of NAVAREA I warnings which have been issued during the previous week and that remain in force are printed in Section III of the Admiralty NMs each week. In addition, Week 1 of Admiralty NMs each year contains a full reprint of all those in force at that time.
4. An In Force list is transmitted via SafetyNET twice per day at 0530 and 1730 UTC (first transmission of the updated list is Friday at 1730 UTC). This list is not updated during its week of transmission.

5. Mariners are recommended to maintain a log containing printed copies of all NAVAREA warnings in force. For NAVAREA I, this log should begin with the full print-out of warnings in force, extracted from the first Weekly NM each year, followed by printed copies of each subsequent message printed from the EGC receiver or extracted from the relevant weekly NM. As each warning is subsequently cancelled, it should remain in the log for proof of receipt but be struck through to indicate that it is no longer in force.
6. The above procedures have been in place since long before the use of web sites, and have always relied upon access to the printed NMs. Historically, the period of 42 days for a warning to be continuously broadcast was based on the maximum length of time required for printed material to reach a vessel on a voyage.

### **Discussion**

7.
  - i) The reproduction of the full list of warnings in force at the beginning of each year by an established hydrographic service should be achievable, but the availability and the timely distribution of this data could be unreliable.
  - ii) Ships entering a new NAVAREA for the first time should automatically receive the weekly in force list via SafetyNET, along with the full text warnings which are less than 42 days old. The full text of older messages will not be being broadcast, but if not held on board should be available on request from the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator.
  - iii) Notwithstanding the fact that receiving MSI via the web is not recognised in SOLAS IV/4, even if every NAVAREA Co-ordinator had all their warnings on a fully operational web site, not all vessels have internet capability whilst at sea.
  - iv) Whilst point iii) must be reconciled, the current universal use and reliance on internet technology could be used to justify a recommendation that the text of all warnings in force are available in a single document on each NAVAREA Co-ordinator's web site and should be downloaded before departure in line with the guidance contained in sub paragraph 2.1.5 of the GUIDELINES FOR VOYAGE PLANNING, IMO Res. A.893(21) along with SOLAS V/34.

### **Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider:
  - agreeing a common procedure to be used by all NAVAREA Co-ordinators;
  - submitting a proposal to IMO to amplify and clarify sub paragraph 6.2.1.7 in IMO Res A.706(17) and sub paragraphs 3.2.1.7 in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual and IHO S53 respectively; and
  - recommending to IMO that a COMSAR circular be issued on this subject to remind mariners of the importance of knowing the content of in force warnings which are no longer being broadcast..