MSI Self Assessment NAVAREA X

Submitted by Australia

	SUMMARY

Executive Summary: Annual report of NAVAREA X MSI activities for the period July 2012 to June 2013.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 12.

Related documents: Nil.

1.   Background

1.1   NAVAREA X extends from the Antarctic at longitude 080° E thence,

30° 00 S 080° 00 E	30° 00 S 095° 00 E	12° 00 S 095° 00 E
12° 00 S 127° 00 E	10° 00 S 127° 00 E	10° 00 S 141° 00 E
00° 00 S 141° 00 E	00° 00 S 170° 00 E	29° 00 S 170° 00 E
45° 00 S 160° 00 E		

thence to the coast of the Antarctic continent at longitude 160° 00 E.

The graphics display of NAVAREA X is available from various documents including the UK Hydrographic Office publication ALRS Volume 5.

1.2   NAVAREA X MSI broadcasts are undertaken through the service provider, Inmarsat, and via Burum LES in particular. Messages are transmitted to Burum LES using XOT (X.25 over TCP) and messages are received from Burum via TCP/IP. MSI messages are transmitted in a non-interactive manner to Burum LES.

1.2.1   The Australian MSI provider has contractual arrangements with its SafetyNET provider requiring an availability of 99.5% per calendar month. The availability of the service for July 2012 to June 2013 is provided in Table 1 and averaged 99.63%.

Month	IOR/POR Availability
July 2012	99.92
Aug 2012	100.00
Sep 2012	100.00
Oct 2012	99.99
Nov 2012	99.87
Dec 2012	99.94
Jan 2013	99.67

Feb 2013	100.00
Mar 2013	100.00
Apr 2013	99.92
May 2013	100.00
Jun 2013	96.30

Table 1 SafetyNET Provider Availability

1.2.2 On 18 June 2013 there was an unplanned outage of 26 hours due to a software issue where data reports were missing Application Programming Interface (API) headers and this accounts for the reduction in availability that month.

1.3 All navigational warnings (NAVAREA X, coastal and local warnings) are transmitted via SafetyNET on the IOR and POR satellites at the scheduled times of 0700 and 1900 UTC. Messages are also transmitted on receipt of the information. Warnings are monitored automatically via an IOR and POR MES in almost real time using special EGC monitoring software which precludes the need to power down and reboot the MES at regular intervals.

1.4 Coastal warnings are transmitted via SafetyNET to nine defined B1 coastal areas. These coastal areas are A to H around the Australian coast (see Figure 1 below) and area N around New Caledonia. New Caledonia scheduled broadcasts are at 0140 and 1340 UTC.

Figure 1: Australian MSI Coastal Areas

The above information is included in the Annual Australian Notices to Mariners which is available from the web site, http://www.hydro.gov.au/n2m/about-notices.htm

1.5 Weather broadcasts for METAREA X are the responsibility of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. During the last year, responsibility for issuing Maritime Safety Information for the Western area of METAREA X was transferred from the Perth office to the National

Meteorological and Oceanographic Centre in Melbourne. Details of the SafetyNET broadcasts can be obtained from the website:
http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/radio-sat/bureau-inmarsat.shtml

1.6   The number of SafetyNET messages promulgated for METAREA X:

2010-2011	13,000
2011-2012	12,700
2012-2013	12,000

1.7   Operational Points of Contact for National Coordinators within NAVAREA X were checked and updated 24 July 2013.

COUNTRY	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
New Caledonia	+687 292332	+687 292303	mrcc.nc@lagoon.nc
Papua New Guinea	+675 3213033	+675 3213051	npion@nmsa.gov.pg
Solomon Islands	+677 21609	+677 23798	mrcc@solomon.com.sb
Vanuatu	+678 22339	+678 22475	lbeandi@vanuatu.gov.vu

Table 2: Points of Contact for NAVAREA X National Coordinators

2.   Comments

2.1   The following numbers of navigational warnings were broadcast via SafetyNET from July to June of each year:

Type/Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
NAVAREA X	18	32	48
AUSCOAST	376	332	321
LOCAL	149	87	59

Table 3: Numbers of Navigational Warnings

2.2   Australia regularly provides updates for the IMO Master Plan and these are reflected in the latest edition of the Master Plan, GMDSS.1/Circ.14 dated 18 December 2012.

3.   NAVTEX Coverage

Australia does not broadcast navigational warnings on NAVTEX and within NAVAREA X no other National Coordinators use NAVTEX. Coastal warnings are broadcast via SafetyNET using the relevant C codes.

4.   Operational Issues

4.1   During the period July 2012 to June 2013, Australian marine surveyors undertook 3251 Port State Control ship inspections. There were 129 MSI related deficiencies related to "facilities for reception of maritime safety information."

5. Quality Management Survey

NAVAREA	ISO 9001 -2008	Promulgate "In-Force" Bulletins	Promulgate "No-Warning" Messages	Monitor Broadcast in almost real time	24/7 contact information provided	Promulgate two scheduled broadcasts	IMO Master Plan updated
X	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Table 4: Promulgation of Navigational Warnings per Resolution A.706 (17)

5.1   NAVAREA X broadcast its first "In-Force Bulletin" on SafetyNET on 31 January 2013 and has continued on a weekly basis. The present method is not a system generated message, as we would like it, and it may be several years before funds will be available to change that.

6. Contingency Planning

6.1   The NAVAREA X coordinator work place is supported by a disaster recovery facility (DRF) 13 kilometres from the primary site. The DRF site supports all the functionality of the primary site including computing and communication systems in an almost "hot standby" environment. In the past year, RCC Australia/NAVAREA X Coordinator personnel have transferred to the backup site and operated from there for several weeks at a time.

7. Capacity Building

7.1   The AusAID programme to provide Papua New Guinea with a GMDSS compliant MSI capability has been delayed by building approval delays and the anticipated completion date is October 2013.

8. Other Activities

8.1   NAVAREA X continues to provide NAVAREAs IV and XII with all monitored MSI traffic from POR and IOR in almost real time via e-mail to the USA MSI authority, NavSafety NGA. In the past year, there have been numerous breaks in the passing of traffic but it is emphasised that this is seen as a non-mission critical link by Information Technology Services (ITS) staff and there is no call-out option for after business hours.

8.2   NAVAREA X also provides, in almost real time, copies of all New Zealand MSI traffic received on the NAVAREA X POR MES.

8.3   Australia hosted the 11th Meeting of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC 11) and the 5th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordinating Committee at Wollongong in May/June 2013. The Australian representative of the WWNWS-SC delivered a report on behalf of the Chairman.

9. NAVAREA Website

Current MSI can be obtained from the website at:
http://www.amsa.gov.au/search-and-rescue/distress-and-safety-comms/msi/

The website allows the users to obtain the latest MSI by automatic response on the browser. As well as all navigational warnings in force, there is a Summary of Mobile Drilling Rigs and a Summary of Special Purpose Vessels that are no longer available on SafetyNET as they will have been cancelled after six weeks and promulgated in Notices to Mariners Section III.

The website is updated in almost real time when warnings are issued and cancelled. In total there were 9,528 unique visitors (non-repeat views) for the year July 2012 to 2013 with an average time of 2:03 minutes spent on the page.

10.   NAVAREA Contact Information

No change to that currently promulgated.

11.   Recommendations

None.

12.   Actions requested

The Sub-Committee is invited to note the report.

13.   Summary

The NAVAREA X self-assessment report highlights MSI activities for the period July 2012 to June 2013. NAVAREA X commenced promulgating of In-Force Bulletins in January 2013. MSI traffic received on the IOR and POR by the NAVAREA X MES monitors is provided to USA and New Zealand authorities in almost real time. The upgrading of Papua New Guinea's MSI capabilities is expected to be completed in October 2013.