

MSI Self Assessment NAVAREA X

Submitted by Australia (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: Annual report by NAVAREA X for period July 2014 to June 2015.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 12.

Related documents: Nil.

1. Background

1.1 NAVAREA X extends from the Antarctic coast 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.

Outline maps of NAVAREA X are available from the Australian Annual Notices to Mariners and the UK Hydrographic Office publication ALRS Volume 5.

1.2 NAVAREA X broadcasts are undertaken through the service provider, Inmarsat, via Burum LES. 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 for broadcast over SafetyNET via the IOR and POR satellites.

1.3 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 2014 to June 2015 is provided in Table 1 and averaged 99.83%.

Month	IOR/POR Availability
July 2014	99.93
Aug 2014	100
Sep 2014	99.60
Oct 2014	99.71
Nov 2014	99.18
Dec 2014	100

Jan 2015	99.99
Feb 2015	99.89
Mar 2015	100
Apr 2015	99.71
May 2015	99.98
Jun 2015	100

1.4 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.

1.5 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.

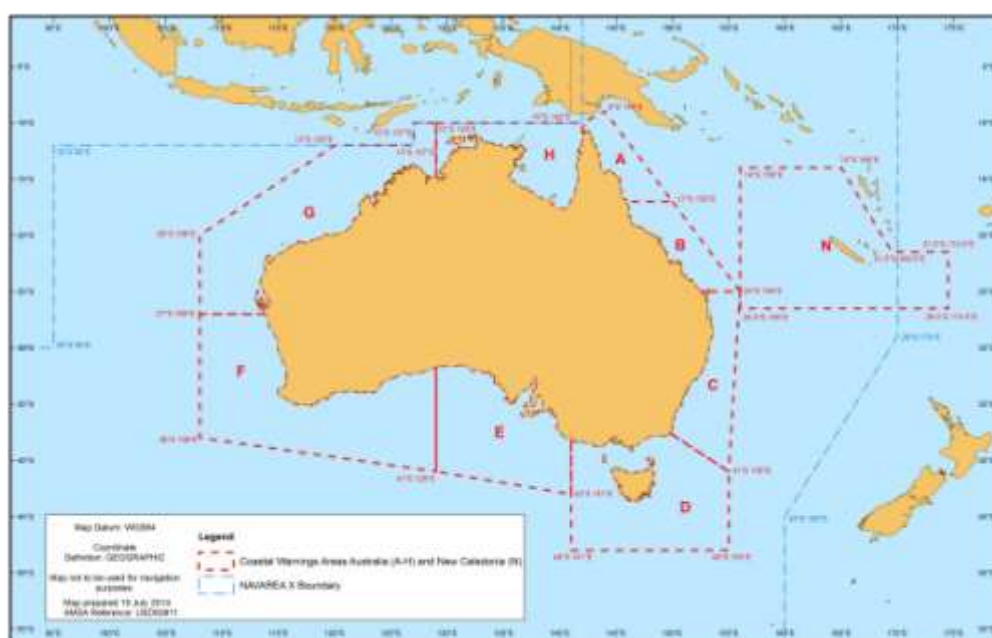


Figure 1: Coastal Warnings Areas

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>

1.6 Weather broadcasts for METAREA X are the responsibility of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Details of the SafetyNET broadcasts can be obtained from the website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/radio-sat/bureau-inmarsat.shtml>

1.7 The number of SafetyNET messages promulgated for METAREA X:

2012-2013	12,000
2013-2014	13,202
2014-2015	12,351

1.8 Operational Points of Contact for National Coordinators within NAVAREA X have been checked and confirmed as follows:

COUNTRY	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
New Caledonia	+687 292332	+687 292303	mrcc.nc@lagoon.nc
Papua New Guinea	+675 3213033	+675 3210484	PNGMRCC@nmsa.gov.pg
Solomon Islands	+677 21609	+677 23798	mrcc@solomon.com.sb
Vanuatu	+678 22339	+678 22475	ckalo@vanuatu.gov.vu

Table 2: Points of Contact for NAVAREA X National Coordinators

2. Comments

2.1 The details for Australia reported in the GMDSS Master Plan (GMDSS.1/Circ.17 dated 4 March 2015) have been checked. Corrections have been made changing “RCC Australia” to “JRCC Australia” as Australia has a joint aeronautical and maritime rescue coordination centre. There are several other minor aspects of the Australian entries in the GMDSS Master Plan that have been updated as required for NCSR 2 in March 2015.

2.2 Warnings are monitored automatically via a POR (Canberra) and IOR (Fremantle) MES in almost real time using special EGC monitoring software which precludes the need to power down and reboot the MES at regular intervals. MSI traffic received on the POR and IOR by the NAVAREA X EGC monitors is provided to USA and New Zealand authorities in almost real time. The equipment and software is listed below.

Equipment Type	Software Version	Date of Up-date
Thrane & Thrane TT 3022A (Primary) Inmarsat C transceivers with TT3020B (Standby)	EMON Version 1.1	1990

2.3 Over the past three calendar years the following quantity of messages regarding MSI matters were received:

2012				2013				2014			
E-mail	Fax	Phone	Text	E-mail	Fax	Phone	Text	E-mail	Fax	Phone	Text
964	-	15	-	1031	-	17	-	977	-	18	-

2.4 Over the past three calendar years the following quantity of navigational warnings were issued over SafetyNET with average elapsed times:

2012		2013		2014	
Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time
425	12.5 min	426	12.3 min	439	16.7 min

3. NAVTEX Coverage

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

4. Operational Issues

4.1 No new infrastructure has been added in NAVAREA X.

4.2 NAVAREA X issues “In Force warnings” Bulletins.

4.3 NAVAREA X broadcasts navigational warnings until they have been promulgated in Notices to Mariners (NTM) plus one month to ensure that mariners have had an opportunity to obtain the information. The NTM becomes the sole source of any information and these are available through chart distributors such as Boatbooks or the NTM editions on the web: <http://www.hydro.gov.au/n2m/notices.htm>

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

6. Contingency Planning

6.1 The NAVAREA X Coordinator’s primary work place within JRCC Australia in Canberra is supported by a disaster recovery facility (DRF) 13 kilometres north of the primary site. The DRF provides all the functionality of the primary site including computing and communication systems in an almost “hot standby” environment. In the past year, JRCC Australia/NAVAREA X Coordinator duty staff have regularly conducted transfer of systems to the DRF site. Work has been conducted on the IT infrastructure and a number of supporting operating systems and databases have been virtualised to streamline and enhance business continuity in the event of a failure at the Primary site.

7. Capacity Building

7.1 The AUSAID/Australian DFAT Project to provide a GMDSS capability in Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to encounter difficulties with infrastructure issues beyond the control of the project management team. The latest estimate on delivery of the additional capability is not expected to be completed until at least the second quarter of 2016. PNG warrants an improved capability for both navigational warnings and search and rescue purposes.

8. Other Activities: Meetings, Visits and Courses

8.1 The 13th South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) Meeting held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 25-27 February 2015 was attended by more than 40 participants. These included delegates from all eight IHO Member States in the region, all seven Associate Members, three Observer States, three international organisations and six representatives from industry. The IHO was represented by President Robert Ward.

8.2 During the meeting the New Zealand government announced a five million dollar, five-year hydrographic assistance programme (Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)) which will focus on navigation-related aspects of maritime safety that will see hydrographic risk assessments and chart remediation programmes take place for the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tokelau.

8.3 The 13th meeting of the Commission was preceded by a workshop on hydrographic governance sponsored by the IHO Capacity Building Fund and delivered by representatives from the Primary Charting Authorities in the region and industry. The workshop was intended to provide the representatives of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) with information on the responsibilities and obligations of coastal States with regard to the provision of hydrographic and nautical charting services and ways in which these obligations can be met. 22 people attended the workshop to hear from seven presenters over two days (23-24 February 2015).

8.4 A MSI Regional Workshop, being part of the IHO 2014 Capacity Building Work Programme, was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 25-27 August 2014. It was attended by fifteen participants from 12 countries in the SWP region, with trainers provided by Australia, New Zealand and WNWNS Chair. The workshop involved practical instruction and guidance to personnel involved with MSI and drafting of Navigational Warnings.

8.5 A MSI Training Course, to benefit countries in the area of influence of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) and the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) and being part of the IHO 2014 Capacity Building Work Programme, was held in Muscat, Oman on 15-17 December 2014. It was attended by twenty five participants from 15 countries, with trainers provided by Australia and the United States.

8.6 Lieutenant Commander Vania Claudia de Assis of the Brazilian Hydrographic Center visited Canberra over 27-28 April 2015 for familiarisation with the MSI system used by JRCC Australia. Later that week, she visited the Australian Hydrographic Office at Wollongong for a familiarisation on NTM practices

8.7 Mr Lynn Walton who has represented NAVAREA X at the WNWNS-SC since 2010 has effectively commenced retirement as of August 2015. The current NAVAREA X representative wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by Mr Walton over the last five year period in promoting and improving MSI both regionally and internationally.

9. NAVAREA X Webpage

Current NAVAREA X MSI can be obtained from the AMSA website at:

<http://www.amsa.gov.au/search-and-rescue/distress-and-safety-comms/msi/>

The webpage allows the users to obtain the latest MSI by automatic response on the browser or it can be sent to an e-mail address. 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 promulgated in Notices to Mariners Section III.

The MSI webpage is updated in almost real time when warnings are issued and cancelled, otherwise it updates every 30 minutes. The date and time of the last update is shown on the website and any download.

In total there were 33,019 unique visitors (non-repeat views) for the year 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 with an average time of 1.87 minutes spent on the page.

10. NAVAREA Contact Information

No change to that currently promulgated.

11. Recommendations

There are no recommendations.

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 2014 to June 2015.