



18th Meeting of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission

MSI Self Assessment – NAVAREA VII South Africa

Presented by Commander Christoff Theunissen

On behalf of the South African National Hydrographer Captain (SA Navy) Theo Stokes

NAVAREA VII Coordinator

SAIHC18, 10 – 12 May 2022



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - COVID-19



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- Reduced amount of SafetyNET Messages / Coastal Navigational Warning Messages promulgated 01 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 reporting period compared to 2019, although there is an increase from previous reporting period.
- Message traffic is currently gradually increasing with global and local shipping and operations returning to normal.
- As far as capacity is concerned, both the SANHO, Telkom Radio Services and all associated MSI role-players in South Africa maintained operational functions throughout the South African COVID-19 Lockdown period.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Iridium



- No agreement between South Africa (represented by Telkom Radio Services) and Iridium has been signed yet.
- Despite not having an agreement in place, South Africa commenced with broadcast trials in April 2021, with Telkom Radio Services broadcasting all NAVAREA VII messages as well as METAREA messages, and the SANHO monitoring all broadcasts.
- There has been no issues of note, and Iridium has reported that the system is functioning as designed.
- There has also been several commercial vessels that has confirmed receipt of Iridium broadcasts within NAVAREA VII as promulgated.
- South Africa will consider IMO and IHO directives regarding the implementation of Iridium as a GMDSS provider.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Contingency Planning.

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NAVAREA VII

- To ensure the continuous operational capability of MSI dissemination via SafetyNET, a contingency plan exists between South Africa, France and Australia.
- South Africa, France and Australia tested the contingency plan during 2018, with the joint exercise taking place on 06 June 2018 – NAVAREA VII coordinator to proposed a contingency exercise to take place in 2022.

COVID-19

- Both the SANHO, Telkom Radio Services and all associated MSI role-players in South Africa maintained operational functions throughout the South African COVID-19 Lockdown period.
- Watches were instituted and closely monitored, and in cases where staff was placed in quarantine or isolation, duties and functions were transferred off site in order to maintain operability and functionality.



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IDENTIFIED DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS



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- The following table shows the number of SafetyNET II and SafetyCAST messages that were transmitted within NAVAREA VII (from WWNWS13 Self-Assessment 01 August 2020 to 31 July 2021, bold red indicates number of messages from end of WWNWS13 reporting period to 31 March 2022):

	2018	2019	2020	2021
SafetyNET II	424	376	366	362
SafetyCAST	n/a	n/a	98 (excluding test broadcasts)	362
Coastal Navigational Warnings	754	643	752	487



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CAPACITY BUILDING



- SAIHC have identified Capacity Building initiatives with MSI as a very important first phase component. The IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) has established a capacity building fund (CBF) to facilitate seed-corn activities such as technical workshops, visits and training courses within the region.
- The possible hosting of such workshops at the SANHO Training Facility, as well as an eLearning initiative has also taken shape, hosted by the SANHO, in order to facilitate capacity building initiatives into the future.
- The eLearning package, which focuses on MSI, has been developed, gone through internal and external verification and rolled out to SAIHC members for comment and testing.
- Capacity building within the SA Navy structures is an ongoing process to ensure radio operators at NAVCOMCEN CAPE, the node for MSI distribution between the SANHO and Telkom Radio Services, are kept up to date and qualified.



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CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS



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Angola:

- Very few MSI reports received from Angola, although there has been some progress compared to the previous reporting period.
- Oil and Gas Industry - regularly reports on the movements of rigs, as well as other industry related matters, promulgated in Riglist warning.
- The concern remains that Angola does not report regularly on MSI related matters in terms of events taking place on its coastal areas and ports.

Mozambique Institute of Hydrography and Navigation:

- INAHINA promulgate monthly Notices to Mariners. Relevant MSI is passed to the NAVAREA VII Coordinator for transmission on SafetyNET.
- MSI reports mainly consist of Aids to Navigation being out of order, and the concern exists that no other information regarding maritime safety is generated and communicated to South Africa.



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CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

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Namibia:

- NAVTEX service is operational as of May/June 2019, but broadcasts are intermittent.
- MSI reports mainly consist of gunnery exercise warnings, port construction operations and the status of Aids to Navigation.

Madagascar:

- Few MSI reports are received from Madagascar and mainly consist of the deployment of Aids to Navigation and related equipment being out of order.

Iles Comores:

- There remains a near total lack of communication from Iles Comores.

Lack of transmitting stations:

- The lack of NAVTEX Stations north of South African borders, namely Angola, Mozambique and Madagascar, is a persistent challenge.



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CLOSING



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Recommendations:

- Member States are encouraged to communicate MSI matters to the NAVAREA VII Coordinator in order to disseminate these potentially hazardous matters to mariners operating in the relevant areas of interest.
- Member States are invited to contact the SANHO for enrolling in the MSI eLearning package.

Action requested:

- Report to be noted by SAIHC18.



Thank You

SAIHC18, 10 – 12 May 2022