



19th Meeting of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission

MSI Self Assessment – NAVAREA VII South Africa

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NAVAREA VII Coordinator

SAIHC19, 29 – 31 August 2023



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



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- Increased amount of SafetyNET/SafetyCAST Messages / Coastal Navigational Warning Messages promulgated 1st Jan 2022 to 31st December 2022 reporting period compared to previous reporting period, return to “normal” pre-COVID traffic patterns.
- The African Great Lakes And Rivers Sub-Working Group (AGL&RSWG), in conjunction with the East African Community Lake Victoria Basin Commission meeting held in December 2022 in Lilongwe highlighted the lack of, and subsequent actions taken to improve safety on Lake Victoria.
- Aids to navigation (including radio navigation aids) plays a key part in the various projects. The RSA thanks the UKHO, the AGL&RSWG and East African Community Lake Victoria Basin Commission for the great work being done in this regard to address the gap in navigation safety broadcasts that has persisted in the region.



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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 to comply with IMO and IHO directives regarding the implementation of Iridium as a GMDSS provider, noting the WWNWS concerns regarding funding.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Contingency Planning.

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- To ensure the continuous operational capability of MSI dissemination via SafetyNET, a contingency plan exists between South Africa, France and Australia. Pakistan also approached RSA for contingency exercise in 2022, but did not take place

COVID-19

- Normal operations for MSI - SANHO, Telkom Radio Services and all associated MSI role-players in South Africa maintain contingency plans in case of pandemic/epidemic.
- Cease reporting on COVID-19 in report and presentation.



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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 draft WWNWS15 Self-Assessment 1st Jan 2022 to 31th December 2022):

	2021	2022	2023
SafetyNET II	365	467	232 (31/07/2023)
SafetyCAST	365	467	232 (31/07/2023)
Coastal Navigational Warnings	677	683	333 (31/07/2023)



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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.
- 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, 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 SAIHC19.



Thank You

SAIHC19, 29 – 31 August 2023