

## NAVAREA X Coordinator report

Submitted by Australia (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) as NAVAREA X Coordinator

### 1. Background

- 1.1. This document should be read in conjunction with the maritime safety information (MSI) Self Assessment submitted by NAVAREA X to WWNWS13 (document WWNWS13-2-1-X) available at <https://iho.int/en/wwnws13-2021>.
- 1.2. Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is Australia's national agency responsible for maritime safety, protection of the marine environment, and maritime aviation search and rescue.
- 1.3. As the NAVAREA X Coordinator, AMSA provides vessels with MSI about hazards and foreseeable dangers to safe navigation in Australia's, and our regions, marine environment. AMSA provides MSI via long-range and coastal navigational warnings.
- 1.4. AMSA remains certified to the ISO 9001:2015 (quality), ISO 14001:2015 (environmental) and ISO 45001:2018 (occupational health and safety) standards, having completed an audit in December 2021.

### 1.5. NAVAREA X Contact Information:

NAVAREA X Coordinator  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
GPO Box 2181  
Canberra, ACT 2601  
Australia  
Website: <https://www.amsa.gov.au>

#### 24-hour operational contact

Phone: +61 2 6230 6811  
Fax: +61 2 6230 6868  
Email: [rccaus@amsa.gov.au](mailto:rccaus@amsa.gov.au)

#### Business hour non-operational contact

Phone: +61 2 6279 5703  
Email: [stuart.shepard@amsa.gov.au](mailto:stuart.shepard@amsa.gov.au)

## 2. Operational Points of Contact for the National Coordinator

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
Australia	Australian Maritime Safety Authority – AMSA	+61 2 6230 6811		rccaus@amsa.gov.au stuart.shepard@amsa.gov.au
New Caledonia	MRCC Noumea	+687 29 21 21		operations@mrcc.nc
	French Hydrographic Office - SHOM	+33 2 56312303		na-om@shom.fr
Papua New Guinea	PNG MRCC	+675 3212969 +675 73517071	+675 3210484	PNGMRCC@nmsa.gov.pg
Solomon Islands	MRCC Honiara	+677 21609 +677 27685		mrcc@solomon.com.sb
	Solomon Islands Maritime Authority - SIMA	+677 7524899		clifford.olisukulu@sima.gov.sb
Vanuatu	Department of Ports and Maritime	+678 33600		trobson@vanuatu.gov.vu

**Table 1: Operational points of contact**

## 3. Maritime Area:

3.1. NAVAREA X (depicted in Figure 1) extends from the Antarctic coast at longitude 080° 00 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.

3.2. Outline maps of NAVAREA X are available from the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) *Seafarers Handbook for Australian Waters (AHP20)*<sup>1</sup> publication and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) *Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS) Volume 5 (NP285) - Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)*<sup>2</sup> publication.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hydro.gov.au/prodserv/publications/ahp20.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.admiralty.co.uk/publications/publications-and-reference-guides/admiralty-list-of-radio-signals>

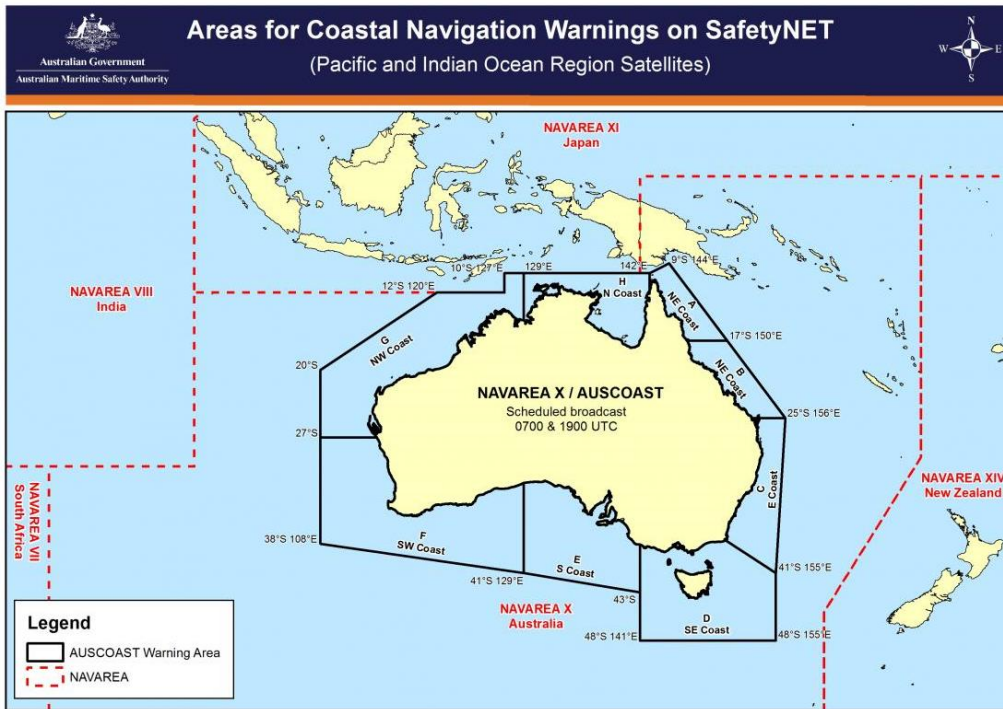


Figure 1: NAVAREA X outline

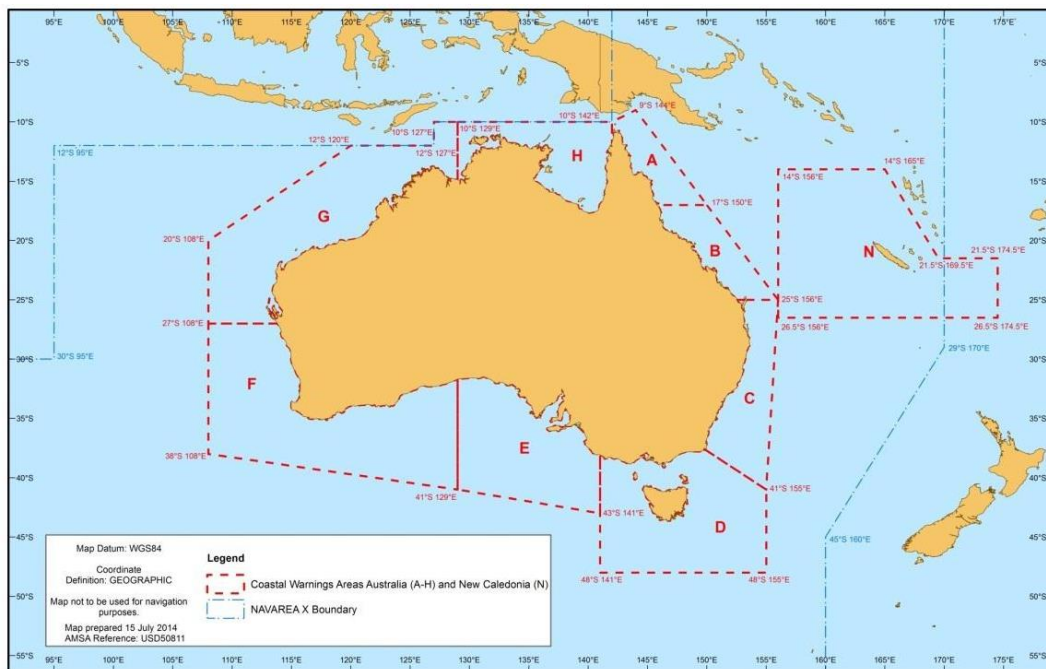


Figure 2: Coastal warning areas

- 3.3. NAVAREA X Enhanced Group Call (EGC) broadcasts are made via the recognised mobile satellite service provider, Inmarsat, through Burum land earth station (LES).
- 3.4. All long-range navigational warnings (NAVAREA X) are broadcast via SafetyNet on the IOR and POR satellites at the scheduled times of UTC 0700 and 1900.
- 3.5. Coastal and local warnings (AUSCOAST and Sea Safety Messages) are transmitted on the POR satellite only at the scheduled times of UTC 0700 and 1900. There are nine

defined AUSCOAST areas, identified by the letters **A** to **H**. In addition, area **N** around New Caledonia has scheduled broadcasts at UTC 0140 and 1340 (refer to Figure 2).

3.6. NAVAREA X, coastal (to the defined AUSCOAST areas, identified by the letters **A** to **H**) and local broadcasts are also made via HF radiotelephone. Further information on the broadcast schedule and operational frequencies is available on the AMSA website (<https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigation-systems/maritime-safety-information>).

#### 4. GMDSS Master Plan

4.1. The GISIS GMDSS Master Plan module has been checked in accordance with International Maritime Organization (IMO) Circular GMDSS.1/Circ.23 and is up to date. The last update was made August 2021.

4.2. The GISIS GMDSS Master Plan module for Iridium SafetyCast service has been updated to show Australia is ‘under trial’ for NAV, MET and SAR services. This information is also reflected on the IHO webpage for Iridium SafetyCast Implementation Status (<https://iho.int/en/iridium-safetycast-implementation-status>).

4.3. POR broadcasts are monitored automatically via maritime earth station (MES) units located in Canberra (East Coast) and Fremantle (West Coast). With the relocation of IOR coverage areas, there is no terrestrial capability for Australia to monitor IOR broadcasts and we are investigating options for another service provider to assist. Alarms are provided to operators if there is a broadcast transmission error.

<b>Equipment Type</b>	<b>Software Version</b>	<b>Date of Up-date</b>
TT-3022A (Primary)	EMON Version 1.1	1990
TT-3020B (Standby)		

**Table 2: NAVAREA X monitoring equipment**

4.4. Over the past three calendar years, the number of navigational warnings issued over SafetyNET and SafetyCast were:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
SafetyNET	614	588	544
SafetyCast	NA	4 <sup>3</sup>	0

**Table 3: Navigational warnings issued over SafetyNET and SafetyCast**

#### 5. NAVTEX Coverage:

5.1. There are no NAVTEX services provided within NAVAREA X.

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<sup>3</sup> Iridium SafetyCast remains ‘on trial’

## 6. Operational Issues:

6.1. From July 2020 to June 2021, the following MSI provided by coastal states within NAVAREA X was broadcast:

Coastal State/Country	No. of MSI messages	Topics/Subject	Year-on-year
New Caledonia	2	Live Fire	Reduction from 34
Papua New Guinea	0	N/A	Reduction from 44
Solomon Islands	0	N/A	No change
Vanuatu	0	N/A	Reduction from 1

**Table 4: Coastal state MSI broadcast**

6.2. There has been a marked reduction in MSI broadcast by New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea during the reporting period.

6.3. NAVAREA X has installed an Iridium LT-3100S GMDSS System at JRCC Australia to assist in the training of NAVAREA X staff and monitoring of broadcasts.

6.4. AMSA has taken over the provision of all Australian HF radiotelephone (voice) services commencing 1 January 2022. Further information on this service is available from <https://www.amsa.gov.au/hfradio>.

6.5. NAVAREA X issue in-force warnings and bulletins. Mariners can access in-force warnings either by sending a blank email to [ausmsi@amsa.gov.au](mailto:ausmsi@amsa.gov.au) for an automatic reply, or via web page <https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigation-systems/maritime-safety-information-database>. Archived warnings are not available, except by specific request.

6.6. There have been no operational impacts on the promulgation of navigational warnings caused by the impacts of COVID-19.

## 7. Contingency Planning

7.1. The NAVAREA X Coordinator's primary workplace is in Braddon, Australian Capital Territory, Australia and co-located with JRCC Australia. JRCC Australia is supported by a disaster recovery facility (DRF) located 13 kilometres north in Mitchell, Australian Capital Territory, Australia.

7.2. The DRF provides redundant functionality of the primary workplace in a 'hot standby' state. In the past year, the transfer of staff and systems from the primary workplace to the DRF has been regularly exercised due to business continuity operations (see paragraph 7.5).

7.3. NAVAREA X Coordinator functionality for SafetyNET can be carried out by the manual submission of MSI via an authenticated email account direct to Burum LES, using an internet-connected laptop/desktop, with webmail functionality.

7.4. NAVAREA X Coordinator functionality for SafetyCast can be carried out by the manual submission of MSI via an authenticated web interface. This was exercised in October 2020.

7.5. AMSA has implemented its business continuity planning, to reduce the impacts of COVID-19 on providing RCC services. There has been no impact on the promulgation of MSI.

## 8. Capacity Building

8.1. AMSA works directly with the PNG National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) to build institutional capacity to deliver their statutory obligations. Our focus at present covers:

- Implementation of revised domestic maritime legislation, which will implement key IMO Conventions.
- Enhanced capacity to deliver an effective port State control inspection regime
- Conducting a diagnostic of PNG's navigation services capabilities.

8.2. The last MSI training provided to coastal states was in 2018 (see paragraph 7.1 of WNWNS11/3/2-X). Improvements globally in delivering capacity building and training in a virtual environment have been demonstrated by South Africa and the United States; however, there is a lack of trainers, systems and tools to provide training in this manner. Further collaboration, including train-the-trainer courses, will be considered in 2022.

## 9. Other Activities

9.1. The 8<sup>th</sup> session of IMO's Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8) met virtually from 19 to 23 April 2021, finalising revision of SOLAS chapters III (life-saving appliance and arrangements) and IV (radiocommunications) and other associated IMO instruments. These changes agreed at the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 104) and will come into effect on 1 January 2024.

9.2. NCSR 8 also had on its agenda a request to finalise the first edition of the Iridium SafetyCast Manual; however, despite Iridium operating as an internationally recognised mobile satellite service provider, NCSR did not finalise. Further amendments were made and submitted directly to MSC 104 where an interim and revised edition was approved (MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1).

9.3. The 103<sup>rd</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 103) agreed to establish the *Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information*, under the coordination of Australia (MSC 103/21, paragraph 14.9.4). The Correspondence Group was instructed to consider the mandatory use of all recognized mobile satellite services and options to address cost implications for MSI and SAR information providers concerning the dissemination of information over multiple GMDSS mobile satellite services. The report of the Correspondence Group to the 105<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 105), containing the recommendations and actions, is available in document MSC 105/12.

9.4. The 13<sup>th</sup> session of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) World Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS13) was held virtually from 30 August to 3 September 2021, with participation by the NAVAREA X Coordinator. The

NAVAREA X self-assessment report was presented (document WWNWS13-2-1-X available at <https://iho.int/en/wwwnws13-2021>).

## 10. NAVAREA X Website

10.1. General information on MSI, including availability and publication of navigational and meteorological warnings and services for NAVAREA/METAREA X are on AMSA's website <https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigation-systems/maritime-safety-information>.

10.2. Navigational warnings are updated in real time when warnings are issued and cancelled, and can be updated by refreshing the webpage <https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigation-systems/maritime-safety-information-database>. The date and time of the last update is shown on the website and any download.

10.3. A breakdown of access to web resources is detailed:

Description	Web page content	Visitors / page views	Average time on page
For paragraph 10.1	General information on MSI	4031 / 8355	2m 04s
For paragraph 10.2	Navigational warnings	23041 / 34890	3m 32s

**Table 5: Unique visitors to AMSA NAVAREA webpages**

## 11. Recommendations

11.1. None

## 12. Summary

12.1. The NAVAREA X Coordinator report provides detail on the activities of NAVAREA X for 2021. It highlights activity in the IHO and IMO, and Australia's implementation of Iridium GMDSS services, and AMSA taking over operational HF radiotelephone services including modified MSI broadcast schedule.