

NAVTEX Panel Report

Submitted by Chair, IMO International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This report provides a summary of the current issues being addressed by the IMO International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel and its actions and activities since WWNWS Meeting 10.

Action to be taken: 7

Related documents: None

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This report covers the period since WWNWS10 and outlines:
 - .1 changes to the NAVTEX infrastructure during the period, and notification of planned changes;
 - .2 current operational issues associated with the NAVTEX service world-wide, and
 - .3 other wider issues associated with the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) with which members of the Panel are involved.

NAVTEX INFRASTRUCTURE

2 Activities and developments during the period since the last report to WWNWS-SC are detailed below in respect to specific NAVAREAs (there has been no activity to report for NAVAREAS I, V, VI, X, XIII, XIV, XV, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XXI):

.1 NAVAREA II.

- .1 **Nigeria** has advised that the upgrade of their GMDSS system including NAVTEX stations is planned for completion by December 2019.
- .2 The **Cape Verde** authorities have advised that NAVTEX equipment is awaiting installation, and the Panel will be informed of further developments. The latest information received advised a planned restoration date of July 2019, although this has yet to be confirmed.

- .3 **Liberia** has contacted the Panel regarding the possibility of installing a NAVTEX station. Plans are at an early stage and the Panel has provided guidance accordingly.
- .4 The **Senegal** NAVTEX station at Dakar is currently broadcasting test transmissions with a view to full restoration of service. The Panel is awaiting the results of these tests.

.2 **NAVAREA III.**

- .1 Discussions regarding service areas in the Black Sea are ongoing. Progress has been made with exchange of MSI taking place using the NAVAREA III Coordinator as an intermediary.
- .2 **Croatia** has advised that operation of their National NAVTEX station on 490 kHz at Split commenced in April 2019 with B1 Character [**F**].
- .3 Discussions regarding service areas in the Eastern Mediterranean are ongoing.
- .4 The Panel is awaiting a response from **Libya** concerning the current status of their NAVTEX station at Sirt, which has been non-operational for some time.

.3 **NAVAREA IV.**

- .1 **Colombia** has advised that their Caribbean Coast NAVTEX station at Santa Marta is operational on both 518 kHz and 490 kHz.
- .2 A timing issue with the 0220 UTC broadcast from the NAVTEX station at Robin Hood Bay in **Canada** was identified and immediately rectified in June 2019.

.4 **NAVAREA VII.**

- .1 It is understood that the **Namibia** NAVTEX station at Walvis Bay restored full service on 28th June 2019. The Panel is awaiting formal confirmation.
- .2 **South Africa** commenced transmissions in May 2019 from their International NAVTEX station on 518 kHz at Cape Columbine with B1 character [**U**].

.5 **NAVAREA VIII.**

- .1 **India** has advised that transmissions from their National NAVTEX stations on 490 kHz have not yet commenced. No firm date for commencement of service has been advised.
- .2 **Bangladesh** has intimated the possibility of installing a NAVTEX station as part of a GMDSS upgrade. The Panel is awaiting a formal request for a B1 character.

.6 **NAVAREA IX.**

- .1 **Iraq** has commenced transmissions of a National NAVTEX station on 490 kHz at Umm Qasr with B1 character [**W**].
- .2 **Saudi Arabia** has advised that the project for their intended NAVTEX network along the Red Sea coast is due to commence shortly.
- .3 **Pakistan** has advised that their NAVTEX station at Karachi remains non-operational, although efforts are in hand to restore the station to full operational status.

.7 **NAVAREA XI.**

- .1 It has been reported via NAVTEX monitoring stations that the **Philippines** International NAVTEX station on 518 kHz at Manila has restored operational service. However, no official confirmation has yet been received by the Panel.
- .2 **China** has provided an update on their National NAVTEX service on 486 kHz. The stations are operating on a trial basis and formal approval from their National Authority is awaited. Guidance has been provided by the Panel in order to expedite such approval.

.8 **NAVAREA XII.**

- .1 **Colombia** has advised that their Pacific Coast NAVTEX station at Buenaventura is now operational on both 518 kHz and 490 kHz.

.9 **NAVAREA XVI.**

- .1 **Peru** has advised that their NAVTEX station at Mollendo has returned to operational status. All Peruvian NAVTEX stations are now fully operational.

.10 **NAVAREA XX.**

- .1 The **Russian Federation** International NAVTEX station on 518 kHz at Sabetta with B1 character [M] became fully operational in June 2019.

CURRENT OPERATIONAL ISSUES

WIDER ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION

- 3 The Panel continues to be active in several areas associated with improving standards and developing MSI services, including providing one instructor to the IHO Capacity Building MSI training course for the benefit of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBHSC) held in Turkey (September 2018).

NON-OPERATIONAL NAVTEX STATIONS

- 4 The Panel again requests that authorities provide status reports of NAVTEX stations which become non-operational (temporary or permanent) together with anticipated return to service dates if known.

OVER-RUNNING OF NAVTEX TRANSMISSIONS

- 5 It has been noted by the Panel that incidences of over-running of the 10-minute timeslots for NAVTEX transmissions have been increasing. Authorities are reminded to ensure that their transmissions do not over-run their assigned 10-minute timeslot as this may cause interference and disruption to the following scheduled transmission. Reference to the IMO NAVTEX Manual for advice is recommended.

CHAIR, IMO NAVTEX COORDINATING PANEL

- 6 Mr. William Van-den-Bergh resigned from his role as Chair, IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel in January 2019. The former Secretary, Mr. Larry Bennett, has taken over the role of Chair, and Mr. Neil Salter has been appointed Secretary.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 7 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided.