

NAVTEX Panel Report

Submitted by Chair, IMO International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This report provides a brief summary of the current issues being addressed by the IMO International NAVTEX Coordinating Panel and its actions since WWNWS Meeting 12

Action to be taken: 7

Related documents: None

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This report covers the period since WWNWS12 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 II, IV, V, VI, VII, IX, X, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX and XXI):

- .1 **NAVAREA I**

Deliberations continue regarding a review of Baltic Sea Service areas and B1 characters. This is following two developments; Gislövshammar NAVTEX station in Sweden has been experiencing some interference from the NAVAREA III NAVTEX Station at Varna in Bulgaria and vice versa. Both

NAVTEX stations share the same B1 character (J).
Additionally, MSI message volume requirements could be addressed by adjustments to service areas mutually agreed amongst Baltic Sea NAVTEX service providers.

.2 NAVAREA III

The NAVAREA III coordinator continues to engage with NAVTEX station operators in the Eastern area of NAVAREA III in a continuing attempt to provide guidance on the correct content of NAVTEXT messages. The NAVTEX Coordination panel remain grateful to the NAVAREA III coordinator for forbearance and patience shown whilst dealing with this delicate issue.

.3 NAVAREA VIII

.1 The NAVTEX Coordination Panel would like to congratulate Bangladesh on beginning test NAVTEX transmissions from Kuakata using the provisional B1 characters [V] on 490 kHz and [D] on 518 kHz. The NAVTEX Coordination Panel would like to thank all parties concerned on achieving this, and in particular, the NAVAREA VIII coordinator.

.2 The NAVTEX Coordination Panel and the NAVAREA VIII have maintained contact with Myanmar regarding potential new NAVTEX stations.

.4 NAVAREA XI

.1 Thailand has expressed interest in establishing new NAVTEX stations. Advice has been given to discuss this with the NAVAREA XI coordinator in the first instance in accordance with the provisions of the IMO NAVTEX Manual.

.2 Brunei has also expressed interest in establishing NAVTEX stations. Similar advice has been given.

.3 The NAVTEX Coordination Panel recognises the continued dedication displayed by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator and is very grateful for this.

CURRENT OPERATIONAL ISSUES

WIDER ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION

3 The NAVTEX Panel strives to remain active in several areas associated with improving standards and developing MSI services. In common with colleagues across the NAVTEX community, these efforts have continued to be hampered over the last year as a direct result of the Covid pandemic but it is hoped that the Panel will be able to resume full efficiency in due course.

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 persist. 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.

NAVTEX COORDINATION PANEL CHANGES

6 Following an internal promotion, Chris Gill has had to step down as Secretary of the NAVTEX Coordination Panel as he is now assuming the responsibility as NAVAREA I Coordinator. No replacement has been appointed as yet. The NAVTEX Coordination Panel offers Chris warm congratulations on this richly deserved promotion.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

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