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**NAVAREA III DEFINE NAVTEX SERVICE AREAS.**  
**Submitted by SPAIN**

1. Action required: Report and discuss on the proposal for the assignation of Service Areas in NAVAREA III as a consequence of the new NAVTEX stations to be established in the area.
2. BACKGROUND: Most of the Navarea III zone is not divided into Navtex service areas; only the Black Sea has a consensus definition of Navtex service areas, and the central Mediterranean Sea has an unilateral definition of the same. Please find details in annex I.  
Algeria, Italy and Tunisia requested IMO the establishment of new NAVTEX stations.  
IMO, considering the situation in Western Mediterranean Sea, decided not to issue new station identifications until the NAVTEX service areas in the Mediterranean Sea are defined, as stated in Annex 4 of Resolution A.801(19). The Navarea III Co-ordinator was called to London last June and reminded that it is compulsory to establish preliminary communications with the relevant countries to agree on the new areas.  
The Navarea Co-ordinator submits communications to those countries to try and reach a consensus, but only a minimum number of responses were received, so it was distributed again to the area and submitted to IMO and IHO as a proposal. (see annex II)
3. COMMENTS: There is a real need for a distribution of the Navarea zone according to the criteria established in the Navtex Manual. There is a glut of Navtex stations in the Mediterranean Sea and a zone distribution following national boundaries is almost impossible (the Navtex Manual states categorically that Navtex areas should never be confused with national boundaries), SAR areas have not been used either despite their being defined for the Mediterranean Sea, because they have different tasks and working frequencies aimed to air search and rescue. Consequently, the proposal submitted to IMO is an attempt to look for coordination and teamwork from the Mediterranean countries, considering the ranges and area of influence for each country. The Sintra Gulf would not be included in the Navtex area and would be covered by Inmarsat; we should note that Lybia originates an average of 4 Navarea warnings per year.
4. RECOMMENDATIONS: None.
5. ACTION REQUESTED: None.

