

MSI Self Assessment – NAVAREA X

Submitted by Australia

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: Situation report on NAVAREA X MSI endeavours for the past year.
A recommendation, for quality management purposes, that a survey of NAVAREA coordinators on certain aspects of their responsibilities be undertaken.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 10

Related documents: NIL

1. Background:

The limits of NAVAREA X, in general, extend from the Antarctic coast to the equator and from 080 E to 170 E longitudes. The precise coordinates are:

The coast of the Antarctic continent in longitude 080 E thence,

3000S 08000E	3000S 09500E	1200S 09500E	1200S 12700E
1000S 12700E	1000S 14100E	0000S 14100E	0000S 17000E
2900S 17000E	4500S 16000E,		

thence to the coast of the Antarctic continent at longitude 16000E.

All navigational warnings are broadcast on the POR and IOR satellites.

The Inmarsat SafetyNET provider is Stratos and warnings are submitted to the Burum LES. Currently navigational warnings are submitted to Burum LES using XOT (X.25 over TCP) but this is expected to change in the future to TCP/IP. Telex services at the MSI provider were terminated on 1 July 2008.

There are four national coordinators within NAVAREA X – New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Furthermore within NAVAREA X they are nine defined SafetyNET B1 coastal areas. Eight of these coastal areas, A to H, extend around the Australian coastline and another coastal area, N, around New Caledonia.

As with NAVAREA X broadcasts, Australian coastal warnings, are also broadcast via the IOR and POR satellites on receipt and then at the scheduled times of 0700 UTC and 1900 UTC.

New Caledonia transmits SafetyNET navigational warnings to B1 area “D” and scheduled broadcasts are at 0140 UTC and 1340 UTC via the POR satellite.

Weather broadcasts for the Australian area of responsibility is undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. The broadcast schedules are provided in Table 1.

Satellite	Forecast Type	Areas	Times
POR	High Seas	North Eastern, South Eastern, Western, Northern	1100, 2300 UTC
POR	Coastal Waters	Bass Strait Northern Territory	0730, 1930 UTC 0815, 2015 UTC
IOR	High Seas	Western	1030, 2330 UTC
IOR	Coastal Waters	Western Australia Northern Territory (Wyndham to Daly River Mouth)	0830, 2030 UTC

Table 1: Australian Weather SafetyNET Bulletin Schedule

2. Comments:

The following numbers of navigational warnings were broadcast via SafetyNET from July to June of each year:

Type/Year	2006		2007		2008	
	Av. Time to issue broadcast		Av. Time to issue broadcast		Median Time to issue broadcast	
NAVAREA X	8	10 Mins	12	89 Mins	28	15 Mins
AUSCOAST	340	19 Mins	346	37 Mins	422	
LOCAL	89	24 Mins	72	24 Mins	89	

Table 2: Numbers and Timing of Navigational Warnings

3. NAVTEX Coverage:

Australia does not broadcast navigational warnings on NAVTEX. Within NAVAREA X no broadcasts are known to be undertaken on NAVTEX.

4. Operational Issues:

4.1 The Australian MSI provider has a contractual arrangement with its SafetyNET provider requiring an availability provision of 99.5% per calendar month. The availability of this service for the period July 2007 to June 2008 is provided in Table 3.

Month	IOR/POR Availability
Jul 2007	99.99
Aug 2007	100
Sep 2007	100
Oct 2007	100
Nov 2007	100
Dec 2007	99.98
Jan 2008	100
Feb 2008	100
Mar 2008	100
Apr 2008	100
May 2008	100
Jun 2008	100

Table 3: SafetyNET Provider Availability

4.2 During the period July 2007 to June 2008, Australian marine surveyors undertook 3061 port state control inspections. There were 82 MSI deficiencies recorded. These deficiencies mainly concerned the Inmarsat-C terminal not being configured appropriately resulting in no evidence of any navigation warnings being provided to the surveyor for the area the vessel was located.

4.3 Australia does not broadcast “in-force bulletins” and “no warnings” messages. Australia is of the view that there is no good operational reason for this requirement given that receipt of warnings on board a ship is an automated process. Mariners may obtain such information from the MSI provider’s website which is updated in almost real time.

4.4 Australia is currently broadcasting a NAVAREA X warning concerning AIS and GPS and a decision to cease such broadcast has not been made at this time. It is understood some other NAVAREA coordinators issued a similar broadcast.

SECURITE

FM RCC AUSTRALIA 300915Z JUN 2008

NAVAREA X 014/08

SOME AIS TRANSPONDERS COMBINED WITH OLDER GPS RECEIVERS HAVE STOPPED WORKING WHILE GPS SATELLITE PRN32 IS IN VIEW. HOWEVER, IN SOME INSTANCES VESSELS MAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AIS INFORMATION FROM OTHER AIS EQUIPPED VESSELS. ALL VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO CHECK THE PROPER OPERATION OF THEIR AIS AND GPS EQUIPMENT.

NNNN

4.5 On 21 May 2008 a vessel enroute from New Zealand to Heard Island reported an iceberg some 300 to 400 metres in circumference in vicinity of 5341S 09429E. The Bureau of Meteorology issues a broadcast. This is the first known broadcast issued in NAVAREA X concerning a drifting iceberg.

4.6 The density of shipping traffic around the Australian coastline and NAVAREA X is depicted in Figure 1.

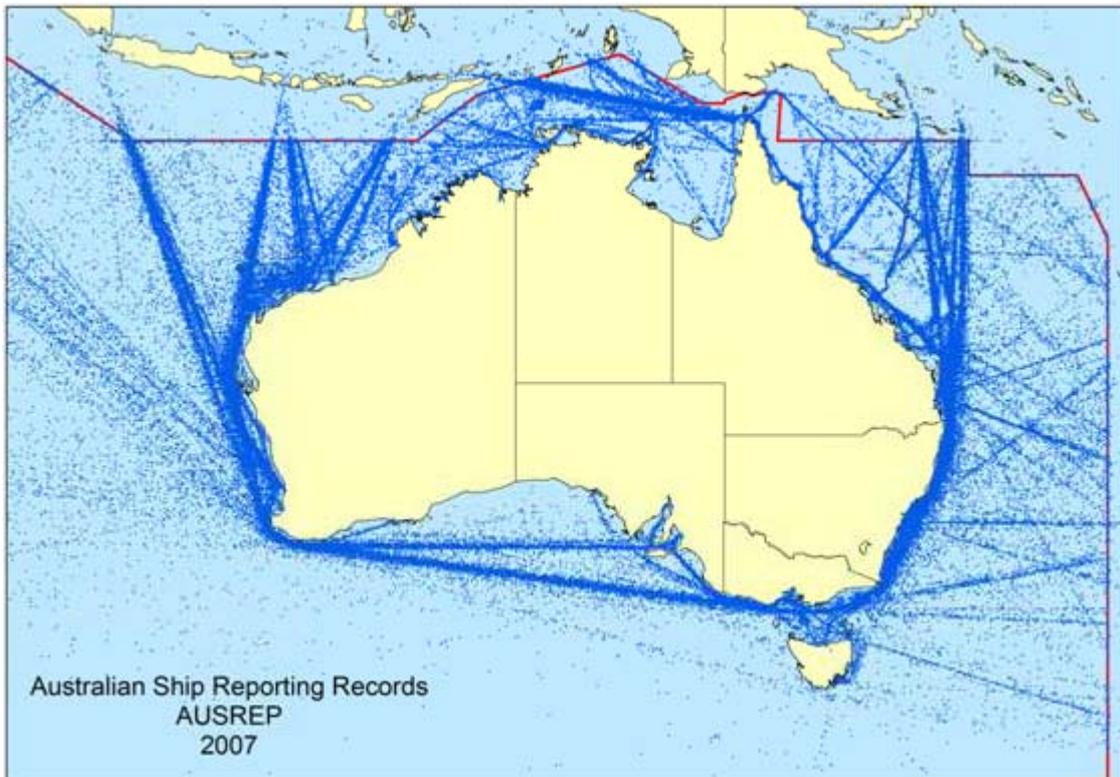


Figure 1: AUSREP 2007 Traffic

5. Capacity Building:

On 18 July 2008, MRCC Noumea, New Caledonia requested “Inmarsat” support for end August for a period of two days whilst they relocate to new premises and are unable to provide SafetyNET services. RCC Australia will provide the necessary support and will issue a NAVAREA X warning when dates have been confirmed.

6. Other Activities:

At CPRNW-9, Australia reported that the RCC “Nexus” system was installed in July 2007 which is used to initiate and monitor receipt of MSI broadcasts. Monitoring of broadcasts is undertaken via IOR and POR MES located in Fremantle and Canberra respectively. Since July 2007 the system has gone through several software upgrades and enhancements and has matured as far as the provision of MSI is concerned. A history of all broadcasts as received on the MES is now kept and the MSI provider is able to access same via the Nexus user interface.

7. NAVAREA Website:

Navigational warnings in force are available at the following website which is updated in almost real time:

http://www.amsa.gov.au/search_and_rescue/Distress_and_Safety_Communications/Maritime_Safety_Information.asp

SafetyNET weather broadcast information can be obtained from:

http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/bureau_inmarsat.shtml

The statistics provided in Figure 2 are for the one year period, 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, and indicates the number of times the MSI web link was accessed.

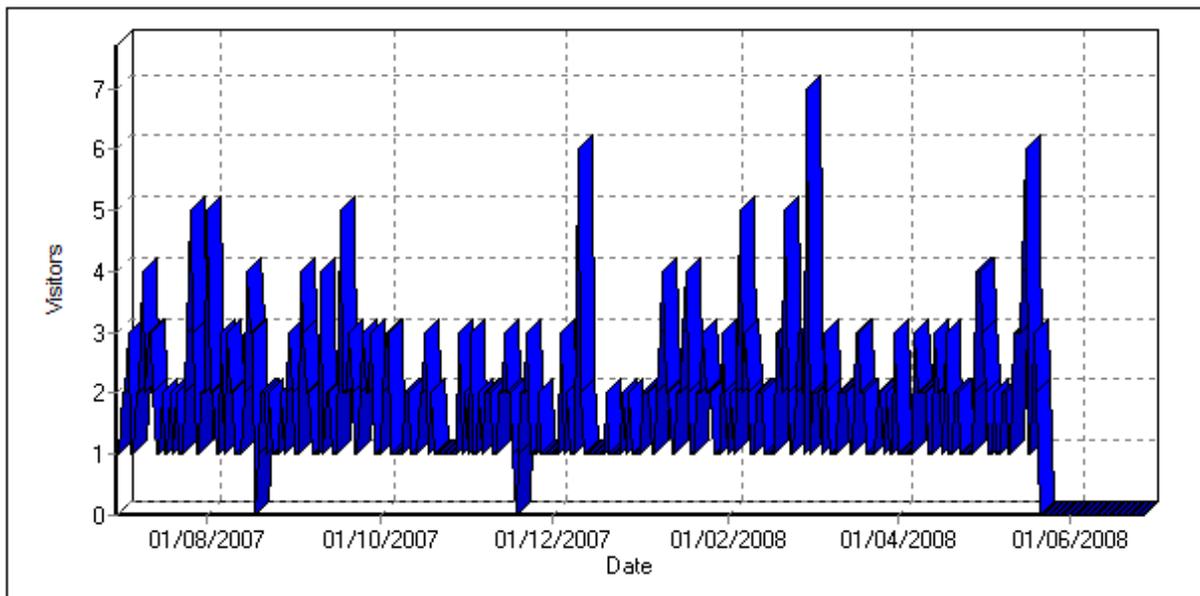


Figure 2: Daily Activity on AMSA MSI Web Link

Hits	
Hits	2,551
Average Hits per Day	7
Average Hits per Visitor	4.39
Incomplete Requests	0
Visitors	
Visitors	581
Average Visitors per Day	1
Bandwidth	
Bandwidth	0 B
Average Bandwidth per Day	0 B

Figure 3: Number of Hits to the AMSA MSI Web Link

8. NAVAREA Contact Information:

There has been a minor change in the address and the information is provided below:

- 24/7 NAVAREA X contact information:

Senior Search and Rescue Officer (Maritime)
RCC Australia
Emergency Response Division
Australian Maritime Safety Authority
GPO Box 2181
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

Phone +61 2 6230 6811
Fax + 61 2 6230 6868
E-Mail: rccaus@amsa.gov.au

- CPRNW NAVAREA X contact information :

Mr Chris Payne
Emergency Response Division
Australian Maritime Safety Authority
PO Box 1332
Fremantle WA 6959
Australia

Phone +61 8 9430 2130
Fax +61 8 9430 2121
E-Mail: chris.payne@amsa.gov.au

9. Recommendations:

Australia recommends that a survey, for MSI quality management purposes, be undertaken of MSI providers to establish if the NAVAREA coordinators' responsibilities, as stated in Resolution A.706(17) as amended, are being adhered to. The initial survey may be undertaken in accordance with the information provided in Attachment 1.

10. Actions requested:

The CPRNW is requested to consider the recommendation provided in section 9.

11. Synopsis:

The NAVAREA X report on MSI self-assessment was provided as document CPRNW10/3/2/X. Australia presented the report highlighting the MSI activities for the past year and provided updated information. In addition Australia recommended, for quality management purposes, that a basic survey be undertaken of NAVAREA coordinators in the provision of certain aspects of MSI promulgation and as stated in Resolution A.706(17) as amended.

ATTACHMENT 1

MSI Quality Management Survey

NAVAREA	Promulgate “In-force” bulletins	Promulgate “No Warnings” messages	Monitor broadcast in almost real time	24/7 contact information provided	Promulgate TWO scheduled broadcasts	IMO Master Plan Updated
I						
II						
III						
IV						
V						
VI						
VII						
VIII						
IX						
X	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
XI						
XII						
XIII						
XIV						
XV						
XVI						