

International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco

13 – 15 September 2005

Origin: Australia

MARITIME WEATHER SERVICE

Submitted by AUSTRALIA

1. ACTION REQUIRED

None, submitted for information only

2. COMMENTS

The Bureau of Meteorology provides a limited range of forecasts and warnings via the Inmarsat-C, SafetyNET system. Services are provided for Bass Strait, Western Australian and Northern Territory coastal waters and for the Navarea X and Australian high seas areas.

The high seas and coastal waters forecast areas are depicted in Attachment 1. Attachment 1 also provides information on HF Radio broadcasts intended for non-SOLAS vessels.

Warnings are broadcast as they are issued by Bureau Forecasting Centres with one repeat after six minutes. High seas warnings are broadcast to a circular area with a radius up to 999 miles or to Metarea X. High seas forecasts are transmitted to Metarea X. See figure 1 below for a map of Navarea/Metarea X.

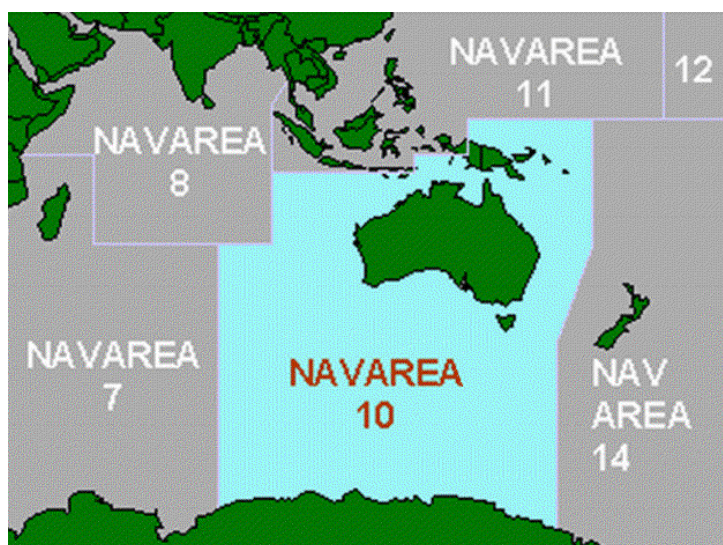


Figure 1.

Coastal weather broadcasts are transmitted using B2 code 'B' (meteorological warnings) or B2 code 'E' (meteorological forecasts) with the appropriate B1 pseudo 'Navtex' coverage code as depicted in Figure 2 below.

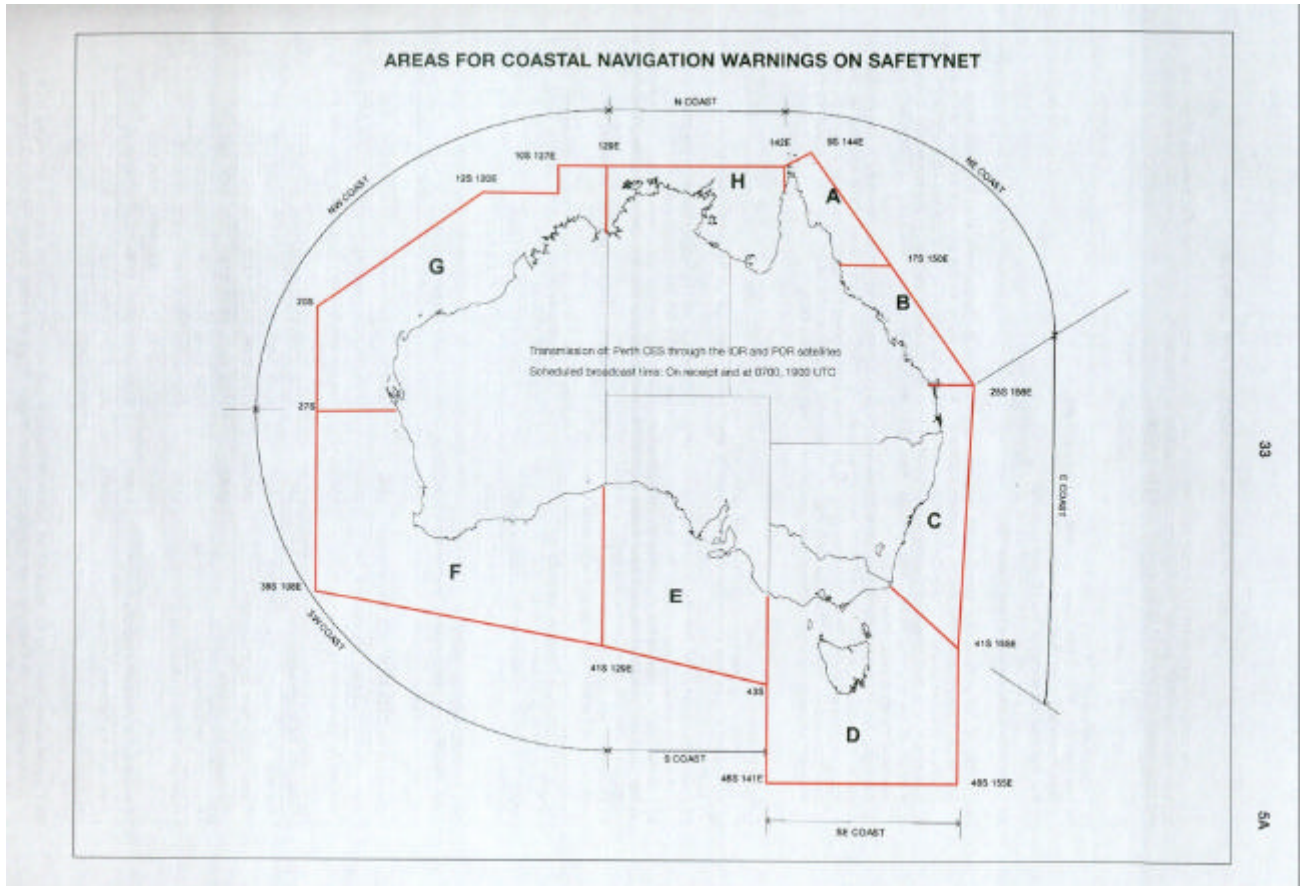


Figure 2.

3. Weather Broadcast Schedule via Inmarsat SafetyNET

Satellite	Forecast type	Areas	Times
Pacific Ocean	High seas	North Eastern, South Eastern, Western, Northern	1100, 2300 UTC
Pacific Ocean	Coastal waters	Bass Strait (Area D) Northern Territory (Area H) (except for the area Wyndham to Daly River Mouth which will be broadcast on the Indian Ocean satellite)	0515 LST; 1915 UTC* 1210 LST; 0210 UTC* # 1645 LST; 0645 UTC* 2300 LST; 1300 UTC* # 0545 LST; 2015 UTC 1745 LST; 0815 UTC
Indian Ocean	High seas	Western	1030, 2330 UTC
Indian Ocean	Coastal waters	Western Australia (Area F & G)	0400 LST; 2000 UTC 1600 LST; 0800 UTC

* 1 hour earlier during Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time

During late 2005, Bass Strait forecasts will change to twice a day with the cessation of the 1210 and 2300 LST broadcasts.

ATTACHMENT 1

Australian Maritime Meteorological Services

A guide to Australia's marine forecasts and warnings broadcast via HF Radio

MARINE WEATHER SERVICES

1. Marine Forecasts and Warnings

Routine coastal waters and high seas forecasts and warnings are produced by the Bureau of Meteorology and broadcast by marine radio. They are also available from a variety of other sources.

Routine Coastal Waters Forecast are for areas within 60 nautical miles of the coast (see map for coastal waters areas). They are issued by Regional Forecasting Centres in each capital generally twice daily and monitored continuously for changes which may occur. Updates may be issued at other times.

Routine High Seas Forecasts are issued twice daily by the Regional Forecasting Centres in Perth, Darwin, Brisbane and Melbourne for the areas beyond the coastal waters surrounding Australia.

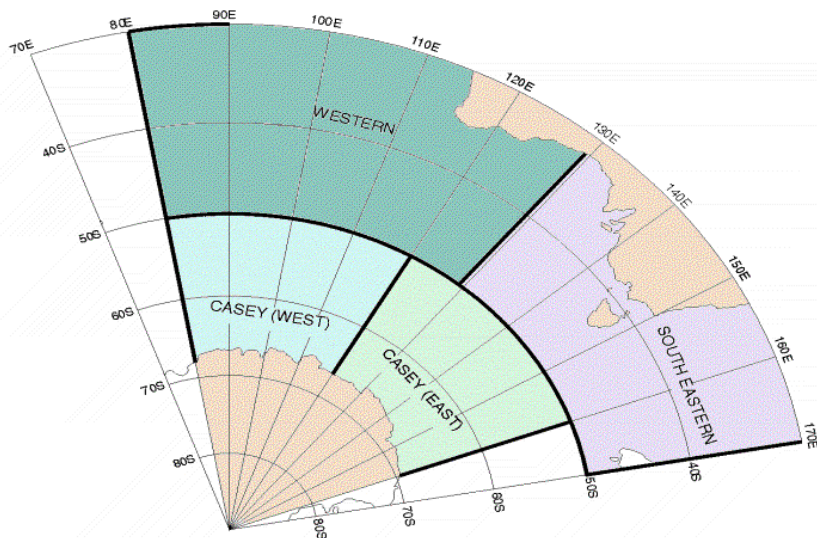
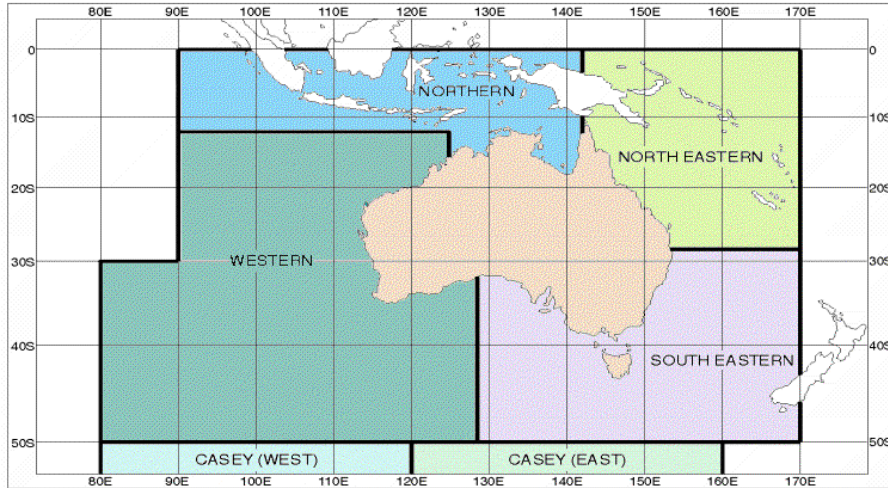
Warnings for Coastal Areas are issued whenever strong winds, gales, or storm-force winds are expected. The initial warning attempts to provide around 24 hours lead-time and warnings are renewed every 6 hours.

Warnings to Shipping on the High Seas are issued whenever gale, storm or hurricane-force winds are expected. The initial warning attempts to provide around 24 hours lead-time and warnings are renewed every 6 hours.

2. Marine Radio - Maps of forecast areas:

Coastal Waters Forecast Areas

High Seas Forecast Areas



3. HF Radio Broadcasts

The Bureau of Meteorology broadcasts its marine weather **radio services** for high seas and Australian coastal areas from transmitters at Charleville in Queensland and Wiluna in Western Australia. Identifiers are **VMC** (for services from Charleville) and **VMW** (for services from Wiluna).

VMC (Australia Weather East) broadcasts for the following areas:

Coastal Waters between Cape Don in the Northern Territory and Eucla in Western Australia, including all Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia zones. **High Seas** for the Northern, North Eastern and South Eastern high seas areas.

VMW (Australia Weather West) broadcasts for the following areas:

Coastal Waters between the South Australia - Victoria border and Torres Strait in Queensland including all South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory zones. **High Seas** for the Northern, Western and South Eastern high seas areas.

Voice Schedule

Voice broadcast provide bulletins of warnings (using a program repeated every hour) and forecast (using a program repeated every four hours). The full schedule is available at www.bom.gov.au/marine

Fax Schedule

Fax broadcasts run on a 24 hour cycle. The full schedule is available at www.bom.gov.au/marine or by faxing 1902 93 5046 (call costs \$1.38 per minute including GST, higher from international, satellite, mobile or public phones).

HF Frequencies (kHz)

VMW HF Voice broadcast frequencies are:

Times here relate to local time (WST) at the transmitter.

Daytime (7am-6pm) **4149, 16528, 8113 and 12362**

Night-time (6pm-7am) **2056, 6230, 8113 and 12362**

VMW HF Fax broadcast frequencies are:

Times here relate to local time (WST) at the transmitter.

Daytime (5am-7pm) **18060, 7535, 10555 and 15615**

Night-time (7pm-5am) **5755, 7535, 10555 and 15615**

VMC HF Voice broadcast frequencies are:

Times here relate to local time (EST) at the transmitter.

Daytime (7am-6pm) **4426, 16546, 8176*** and 12365**

Night-time (6pm-7am) **2201, 6507, 8176*** and 12365**

VMC HF Fax broadcast frequencies are:

Times here relate to local time (EST) at the transmitter.

Daytime (5am-7pm) **20469, 5100, 11030 and 13920**

Night-time (7pm-5am) **2628, 5100, 11030 and 13920**

Navigation Warnings - Sharing of 8176 kHz with State/Territory Authorities:

The maritime authorities of the Australian States and the Northern Territory transmit navigation warnings for a few minutes each hour on 8176 kHz. These transmissions commence at three minutes to the hour and are completed within two-three minutes, before the next regular Bureau transmission which commences on the hour (Australian Eastern and Western Standard Time zones). All state/territory authorities share this frequency and time slot. Schedule details are available from these authorities.

4. Broadcast Antarctic forecast services

Due the unavailability of the transmitter formerly operated by the Australian Antarctic Division at Casey base in Antarctica, transmissions of Casey VLM radiofax broadcasts have been discontinued. However this may change in the event that national priorities are reevaluated in the future.

Forecasts for the Casey West and Casey East high seas areas are prepared during the summer expedition months. They are made available to shipping through arrangements with the Bureau's Regional Forecasting Centre in Hobart. A limited number of Antarctic weather charts are available via the radiofax service carried by VMC and VMW.