Proposal for changes to Annex 7 of GMDSS Master Plan

Submitted by Chair, IMO International NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel

SUMMARY	
Executive Summary:	This paper proposes some changes to the layout and information contained in Annex 7 of the GMDSS Master Plan.
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 5
Related documents:	MSC.1/Circ.1382 GMDSS.1/Circ.13

Introduction

1.   The IMO Master plan of shore-based facilities for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS Master Plan) is the repository for all official information provided to the IMO by Administrations, national authorities responsible for shore-based facilities for the GMDSS, NAV/MET Area Coordinators and search and rescue authorities. Since 1991 this document has provided one of the major sources of information for international hydrographic organisations on which to base any data published in nautical publications as defined in SOLAS V/27 (such as List of Radio Signals).

2.   In November 2010, MSC88 agreed a revision of MSC/Circ.684 and produced MSC.1/Circ.1382, which up-dated the format of the questionnaire. During this process, the opportunity to amend Annex 7 was overlooked by the WWNWS Sub-committee.

3.   Annex 7 (NAVTEX SERVICES) has stood the test of time as the International NAVTEX Service had been well established when the first edition of the Master Plan was produced. Since then more coastal radio station transmitters are being remotely controlled from a central location. Subsequently it would appear that the position of the central location is being used and not that of the antenna as originally intended.

Proposal

4.   Annex 1 of this paper proposes some changes to the headings and data fill in the current Annex 7 of the Master Plan, which will also require a review of the data and lay-out, in an effort to end up with a more consistent and coherent document.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5.   The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the suggested changes at Annex 1 and request the IHB, in liaison with the IMO Secretariat, to submit a paper to COMSAR 17 containing the final proposals.

Suggestion to reformat Column 4 and 9 to Annex 7 of GMDSS Master Plan:

Change title of **Column 4** to **Position of Antenna** [(1)]
Add title note to **Column 9**

Justification: As more and more coastal radio stations become remotely operated from a central location, it is important to keep the antenna position recorded to assist in negating interference problems and when using propagation diagrams, rather than the central controlling stations location. Since the advent of electronic navigational charts it has become more appropriate to quote positional information to two decimal places of a minute. In the past there has been some ambiguity in the position datum being used, this amendment will remove that ambiguity.

Current table for 518kHz, 490kHz and 4209.5kHz:

NAV/MET Area	Country	NAVTEX Coast Station	Position	Range (NM)	B1 Character	Transmission times (UTC)	Language	Status of implementation

All three new tables (changes in red) would look like the following example for NAVAREA I:

NAV/MET Area	Country	NAVTEX Coast Station	Position of Antenna [(1)]	Range (NM)	B1 Character	Transmission times (UTC)	Language	Status of implementation [(2)]
I	United Kingdom	Cullercoats	55° 04´·49N 001° 27´·79W	270	G	0100, 0500, 0900, 1300, 1700, 2100	English	Operational
		Portpatrick	54° 50´·64N 005° 07´·47W	270	O	0220, 0620, 1020, 1420, 1820, 2220	English	Operational
		Niton	50° 35´·18N 001° 15´·29W	270	E	0040, 0440, 0840, 1240, 1640, 2040	English	Operational
	France	Corsen	48° 28´·56N 005° 03´·17E	300	A	0000, 0400, 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000	English	Operational
	Belgium	Oostende	51° 11´·00N 002° 48´·38E	150	V	0330, 0730, 1130, 1530, 1930, 2330	English	Operational (Thames Approach broadcast for United Kingdom)
		Oostende	51° 11´·00N 002° 48´·38E	55	T	0310, 0710, 1110, 1510, 1910, 2310	English	Operational

(1)   Position in Latitude and Longitude (degrees and minutes to two decimal places) using WGS84 datum.
(2)   Operational or Planned and any short amplifying remark.