

CHANGES TO MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION BROADCASTS

INTRODUCTION

Following consultation with customers and service providers the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) can announce a series of radical changes to its Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Service which will be implemented on the 1st February 2007.

BACKGROUND

One aspect of the existing broadcasts is that it takes four hours to make a complete cycle of broadcasts. This results in an unsatisfactory delay in receiving information in some locations especially with the second repetition broadcast. The new schedule will reduce the broadcast cycle from four hours to one hour. We will also state the allocation of VHF channels to aereals for the broadcasts.

The changes will affect both the content of the broadcasts and the transmission procedures. Throughout the planning stage, there has been close consultation with senior officials of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the Conference of Yacht Cruising Clubs (CYCC).

CHANGES TO THE SERVICE

NAVTEX will be the prime means for disseminating MSI and this service remains unchanged. Radio telephony broadcasts on VHF and MF will complement this service.

Full MSI will be available on NAVTEX and by two daily broadcasts on VHF and MF. Six hours later, a new inshore forecast will be broadcast together with any gale warnings. New gale warnings, strong wind warnings and navigational warning will continue to be broadcast on receipt.

Inshore forecasts, gale warnings and any strong wind warnings from the above schedules will be repeated three hours after the initial broadcast for the benefit of those who may have missed the earlier broadcast.

Strong Wind Warnings cover Inshore Forecast Areas. They will only be issued between new inshore forecasts if the wind is forecast to reach force six or more and was not predicted when the main forecast was issued. They will be broadcast on receipt and will be included in the repetition forecasts but will be incorporated into the next new inshore forecast.

The WZ navigation warnings have historically been allotted boundaries identified by a letter. The Hydrographic Office has agreed to realign these boundaries to coincide with the Inshore Forecast area boundaries. This applies to the landward boundaries which will extend seawards in revised directions aligned with one of the eight cardinal points of the compass. Whereas the Inshore Forecast extends to twelve miles offshore, the offshore limits of the WZs will remain unchanged. This should provide the user with more focused information.

Because of the visibility of rigmoves and pipe laying operations both visually and by radar and by virtue of the fact that both activities attract local navigation warnings, we will not broadcast Rig Moves nor Pipe Laying Operations on R/T (NAVTEX remains unchanged).

To avoid ambiguity the limits of some Inshore Forecast (WZ) Areas will be redefined. The area limit currently referred to as The Wash, will be known as Gibraltar Point - the prominent headland at the northern end of the Wash. Similarly, the area limit currently referred to as Colwyn Bay will be redefined as Great Orme Head.

By international regulation, forecasts are timed in UTC (GMT) and will be issued at 0000, 0600, 1200 and 1800 UTC. We will broadcast MSI in local time such that the 'clock time' that you will receive the broadcasts will remain the same throughout the year.

Where possible, transmissions from two MRCCs will be combined to form an Area Broadcast. An example will be that Solent and Portland will broadcast simultaneously, each station broadcasting the same information thus providing slightly more information than at present. This in part allows us to reduce the broadcast cycle to one hour.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

Customers will benefit from the revised service by:

- the introduction of two additional inshore forecasts and a new forecast area for the Isle of Man;

- the broadcast schedule will be condensed into one hour to minimise delay in delivery. Note MRCC Clyde alone will broadcast one hour after the main cycle;
- new weather information will be available every six hours and made available through eight daily broadcast schedules;
- new gale warnings, strong wind warnings and navigational warnings will be broadcast of receipt;
- broadcasts will be made in local 'clock' time throughout the year;
- details of aerals and working channels will be publicised;
- a weatherproof leaflet to carry on board detailing how seek medical advice is available.

BROADCAST TIMES

The following broadcast times will come into effect from the 1st February 2007.

Schedule A - Full Maritime Safety Information broadcast, including new Inshore Forecast, Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecast, WZ Navigation Warnings, SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS where appropriate, three Day Fisherman's Forecast when and where appropriate.

Schedule B - New Inshore Forecast plus previous Outlook*, Gale Warnings.

Schedule C - Repetition of Inshore Forecast and Gale Warnings as per previous Schedule A or B broadcast plus new SWW.

Schedule D - Repetition of Inshore Forecast, Gale Warnings This **(MF)** routine is only made if there are gale warnings in force.

*Note: the new 'interim' forecast provided in Schedule B does not include an updated outlook. The previous outlook will therefore be provided with this 'interim' forecast and repetition broadcast.

MRCC TIMES AND SCHEDULE

Shetland	0110 B D	0410 C	0710 A	1010 C	1310 B D	1610 C	1910 A	2210 C
Aberdeen & Forth	0130 B D	0430 C	0730 A	1030 C	1330 B D	1630 C	1930 A	2230 C
Humber & Yarmouth	0150 B D	0450 C	0750 A	1350 B	1350 B D	1650 C	1950 A	2250 C
Thames & Dover	0110 B	0410 C	0710 A	1010 C	1310 B	1610 C	1910 A	2210 C
Solent & Portland	0130 B	0430 C	0730 A	1030 C	1330 B	1630 C	1930 A	2230 C
Brixham & Falmouth	0110 B D	0410 C	0710 A	1010 C	1310 B D	1610 C	1910 A	2210 C
Swansea, Milford								
Haven & Holyhead	0150 B	0450 C	0750 A	1050 C	1350 B	1650 C	1950 A	2250 C
Liverpool	0130 B	0430 C	0730 A	1030 C	1330 B	1630 C	1930 A	2230 C
Belfast	0110 B	0410 C	0710 A	1010 C	1310 B	1610 C	1910 A	2210 C
Clyde	0210 B D	0510 C	0810 A	1110 C	1410 B D	1710 C	2010 A	2310 C
Stornoway	0110 B D	0410 C	0710 A	1010 C	1310 B D	1610 C	1910 A	2210 C

CONCLUSION

It is believed that these changes will provide a substantially improved MSI broadcast service on radio telephony. However, all mariners who sail in non-SOLAS vessels are strongly encouraged to fit NAVTEX which provides full Maritime Safety Information on 518 and 490 kHz.

If you have any queries please email [Les Snaith](mailto:Les.Snaith)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE BROADCAST USING THE FOLLOWING FREQUENCIES

SHETLAND

Aerials & Frequencies	Saxaford, Fitful Head - 23, Lerwick 84, Collafirth Wideford - 86
MF	Collafirth - 2226 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Shetland and Cape Wrath to Rattray Head
Shipping / GW Areas	Faeroes, Fair Isle, Viking, Cromarty
Additional	3 Day Fisherman's Forecast (October - March)

ABERDEEN & FORTH

Aerials & Frequencies	Durness, Windy Head, Inverbervie, Craiggelly - 23, Noss Head, Fifeness - 84, Rosemarkie, Gregness, St Abbs - 86
MF	Gregness - 2226 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Cape Wrath to Rattray Head and Rattray Head to Berwick
Shipping / GW Areas	Fair Isle, Cromarty, Forth, Forties, Tyne
Additional	3 Day Fisherman's Forecast (October - March) - GUNFACTS & SUBFACTS as required

HUMBER & YARMOUTH

Aerials & Frequencies	Newton, Hartlepool, Flamborough, Guys Head, Trimmingham, Lowestoft - 23, Cullercoats, Whitby, Easington, Langham, Yarmouth - 86
MF	Flamborough - 2226 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Berwick to Whitby, Whitby to Gibraltar Point, Gibraltar Point to North Foreland
Shipping / GW Areas	Tyne, Dogger, Humber, German Bight, Thames
Additional	3 Day Fisherman's Forecast (October - March)

THAMES & DOVER

Aerials & Frequencies	Walton, Southend, Fairlight - 23, Bawdsey - 84, Bradwell, North Foreland - 86
MF	Nil
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Gibraltar Point to North Foreland & North Foreland to Selsey Bill
Shipping / GW Areas	Humber, Thames, Dover, Wight
Additional	Nil

SOLENT & PORTLAND

Aerials & Frequencies	Boniface Down, - 23, The Grove - 84, Newhaven, Needles, Beer Head - 86
MF	Nil

Inshore Forecast / WZ	North Foreland to Selsey Bill, Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis, Lyme Regis to Lands End
Shipping / GW Areas	Wight, Portland, Plymouth
Additional	Nil

BRIXHAM & FALMOUTH

Aerials & Frequencies	Berry Head, Lizard - 23, East Prawle, Trevoise - 84, Rame Head, Isles of Scilly - 86
MF	Lizard 2226 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Lyme Regis to Lands End, Lands End to St Davids Head
Shipping / GW Areas	Portland, Plymouth, Shannon, Fastnet, Sole
Additional	3 Day Fisherman's Forecast (October - March) - GUNFACTS & SUBFACTS

SWANSEA & MILFORD HAVEN

Aerials & Frequencies	Coombe Martin, St Hilary - 23, Blaenplwyf, St Anns Head, Monkstone Point - 84, Hartland, Severn Bridge, Mumbles, Dinas Head - 86
MF & Additional	Nil
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Lands End to St David's Head, St David's Head to Great Orme Head
Shipping / GW Areas	Lundy, Fastnet, Irish Sea

HOLYHEAD

Aerials & Frequencies	South Stack - 23, Great Orme - 86
MF	Nil
Inshore Forecast / WZ	St Davids Head to Great Orme Head & Great Orme Head to Mull of Galloway
Shipping / GW Areas	Irish Sea
Additional	Nil

LIVERPOOL

Aerials & Frequencies	Caldbeck, Moel y Parc - 23, Langthwaite - 84, Snaefell - 86.
MF	Nil
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Great Orme Head to Mull of Galloway & Isle of Man
Shipping / GW Areas	Irish Sea
Additional	Nil

BELFAST

Aerials & Frequencies	Slieve Martin, West Tor, Navar - 23, Limavady, Orlock - 84, Black Mountain - 86
MF	Nil

Inshore Forecast / WZ	Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough, Mull of Galloway to Mull of Kintyre and Isle of Man
Shipping / GW Areas	Irish Sea, Malin
Additional	GUNFACTS & SUBFACTS

CLYDE

Aerials & Frequencies	Torosay, Rhustaffnish - 10, Glengorm, South Knapdale - 23, Kilchiaran, Clyde 84, Tiree, Law Hill - 86
MF	Tyree - 1883 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Mull of Galloway to Mull of Kintyre & Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point
Shipping / GW Areas	Rockall, Malin, Hebrides, Bailey
Additional	GUNFACTS & SUBFACTS

STORNOWAY

Aerials & Frequencies	Barra - 10, Melvaig, Forsnaval, Arisaig - 23, Skriag, Clettravel, Portnaguran 84, Butt of Lewis, Drumfearn, Rodel - 86
MF	Butt of Lewis - 1743 kHz
Inshore Forecast / WZ	Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath
Shipping / GW Areas	Hebrides, Bailey, Rockall, Faeroes, Fair Isle, SE Iceland, Malin
Additional	3 Day Fisherman's Forecast (October - March) - GUNFACTS & SUBFACTS

INSHORE FORECAST AREAS

1. Cape Wrath to Rattray Head including Orkney;
2. Rattray Head to Berwick upon Tweed;
3. Berwick upon Tweed to Whitby;
4. Whitby to the Gibraltar Point;
5. Gibraltar Point to North Foreland;
6. North Foreland to Selsey Bill;
7. Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis;
8. Lyme Regis to Lands End including the Isles of Scilly;
9. Lands End to St Davids Head including the Bristol Channel;
10. St Davids Head to Great Orme Head;
11. Great Orme Head to the Mull of Galloway;
12. Isle of Man;
13. Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough;
14. Mull of Galloway to Mull of Kintyre including the Firth of Clyde and North Channel;
15. Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point;
16. Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath including the Outer Hebrides;
17. Shetland Isles within 60 miles of Lerwick