

Marine Safety Information Leaflet

September 2017

RECORD OF CHANGES

The table below documents the version history of the Maritime Safety Information (MSI) leaflet.

Version	Date	Status	Approved
1	01/01/2010	First published	Head of Navigation Safety Branch, MCA
2	28/10/2014	Updated	
3	07/04/2016	Updated	
4	06/09/2017	Updated	André Cocuccio, Assistant Director Navigation Safety, MCA
5	11/09/2017	Updated	

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This publication will be revised and updated periodically as changes dictate.
 For the most current up-to-date version, please visit
www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-safety-information-leaflet

WEATHER BROADCASTS AND MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION

Her Majesty's Coastguard is responsible in the UK for the broadcast of marine weather forecasts and Maritime Safety Information (MSI) on NAVTEX, VHF and MF and for providing the Radio Medical Advice Link Call (MEDILINK) Service.

COVERAGE

The primary method of disseminating MSI is by NAVTEX which provides coverage out to 270 miles. This service is complemented by radio telephony broadcasts. HM Coastguard provides VHF coverage out to 30 miles and MF coverage out to 150 miles using its network of remote aerial sites around the UK coast. Information about weather and MSI broadcasts from other European and worldwide national authorities can be obtained from: <http://weather.qmdss.org/>

NAVTEX

MSI and additional weather information is transmitted by NAVTEX on 518 kHz in English at the following times (UTC):

CULLERCOATS – 518 kHz (G)

Gale Warnings - when received and at:	01:00; 05:00; 09:00; 13:00; 17:00; 21:00
24-hour Forecast and Outlook	09:00; 21:00
Extended Outlook (3-5 days)	01:00
WZ Navigation Warnings	01:00; 05:00; 09:00; 13:00; 17:00; 21:00
Tidal Surge Warnings	When received
Navarea 1 Warnings	05:00; 17:00

NITON – 518 kHz (E)

Gale Warnings - when received and at:	00:40; 04:40; 08:40; 12:40; 16:40; 20:40
24-hour Forecast and Outlook	08:40; 20:40
Extended Outlook (3-5 days)	00:40
WZ Navigation Warnings	00:40; 04:40; 08:40; 12:40; 16:40; 20:40
Tidal Surge Warnings	When received
SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS	04:40; 16:40
Navarea 1 Warnings	04:40; 16:40

PORTPATRICK - 518 kHz (O)

Gale Warnings - when received and at:	02:20; 06:20; 10:20; 14:20; 18:20; 22:20
24-hour Forecast and Outlook	06:20; 18:20
Extended Outlook (3-5 days)	02:20
WZ Navigation Warnings	02:20; 06:20; 10:20; 14:20; 18:20; 22:20
SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS	06:20; 18:20
Navarea 1 Warnings	02:20; 14:20

OOSTENDE - 518 kHz (T)

Gale Warnings (Dover & Thames)	03:10; 07:10; 11:10; 15:10; 19:10; 63:10
Weather Forecast	07:10; 19:10

OOSTENDE - 518 kHz (V)

Navigation Warnings	02:00; 06:00; 10:00; 14:00; 18:00; 22:00
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Note: Weather information broadcast from this site is from Belgian sources not the Met Office.

MALIN HEAD - 518 kHz (Q)

Gale Warnings (Irish Sea, Shannon, Rockall, Malin and Bailey)	02:40; 06:40; 10:40; 14:40; 18:40; 22:40
Gale Warnings and 24-hour Forecast - Shannon, Rockall, Malin and Bailey	06:40; 18:40
Irish Navigation Warnings for North, NW and W coasts of Ireland and approaches	02:40; 10:40; 14:40; 22:40

If you have broadcast issues relating to NAVTEX, contact your nearest Coastguard Operations Centre.

INSHORE WATERS FORECASTS AND STRONG WIND WARNINGS

The 490 kHz NAVTEX service provides the Inshore Waters Forecast (IWF) and also Strong Wind Warning (SWW) on receipt. Current weather observations are broadcast once only at the next available broadcast schedule as shown below:

CULLERCOATS – 490 kHz (U)

Inshore Waters Forecast - Areas 1 to 5 and 18	07:20; 11:20; 19:20; 23:20
Current weather observations – Eastern coastal areas	03:20; 11:20; 15:20; 23:20

NITON - 490 kHz (I)

Inshore Water Forecast - Areas 5 to 9 and 19	01:20; 05:20; 13:20; 17:20
Current weather observations – South coastal areas and English Channel	01:20; 09:20; 13:20; 21:20

PORTPATRICK - 490 kHz (C)

Inshore Waters Forecast - Areas 9 - 17	00:20; 08:20; 12:20; 20:20
Current weather observations – Western coastal areas	00:20; 04:20; 12:20; 16:20

Malin Head – 490 kHz (A)

Inshore Water Forecast - Areas 13 to 17	00:00; 04:00; 08:00; 12:00; 16:00; 20:00
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Note: NAVTEX provides information for its own area of coverage only. Make sure that you select the appropriate B1 transmitter identity for the area you are travelling towards as well as the area that you are currently operating in. You must also make sure that the B2 subject indicator is set to 'V' in order to receive 490 data from UK sites. As well as the UK NAVTEX transmitters, in some locations, the service is well served by foreign NAVTEX transmitters broadcasting the 518 service in English.

RADIO TELEPHONY BROADCASTS

Full MSI broadcasts will be made by radio telephony (R/T) twice a day. A new Inshore Waters Forecast, and any Gale or Strong Wind Warnings, will be broadcast every three hours. All broadcast times shown are in local time.

FREQUENCIES

From 10:00 hours on 6 September 2017 MSI is permanently broadcast on VHF channels 62, 63 or 64. The use of VHF Channel 10 for MSI backup and pollution control remains unchanged. This prevents interference and allows broadcasts to be made simultaneously on two or more aerials. Because of the length of some broadcasts this system minimises the delay in transmitting the information to all mariners.

NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS

UK Coastal Navigational Warnings (WZ) and NAVAREA I warnings are provided by the UK Hydrographic Office. The primary means of disseminating this information is by NAVTEX and INMARSAT SAFETYNET. Coastal WZ are also broadcast on VHF and MF on selected aeriels, when we receive them and at twelve hourly intervals (see broadcast schedules). Rig movements (RIGMOVES) and pipe-laying operations are not included within these broadcasts.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

A new Inshore Waters Forecast, and any Gale or Strong Wind Warnings, will be broadcast every three hours (local time). Shipping Forecasts for UK sea areas are broadcast twice daily. Gale Warnings for UK sea areas are broadcast as soon as possible after they are received and are valid for 24-hours unless cancelled. Any Gale Warning still in force after the 24-hour period will be renewed.

A Strong Wind Warning (SWW) will be issued if the wind speed in an Inshore Waters Forecast area is predicted to be Force 6 or more and was not identified in the previous Inshore Waters Forecast. SWW are valid only until the next new Inshore Waters Forecast. These warnings will be broadcast on receipt and may be included in the repetition broadcast. The legend 'SWW' will be included in the Inshore Waters Forecast to indicate that a Strong Wind Warning is in operation for the time covered by the forecast.

VHF

MSI will be broadcast by HM Coastguard on either VHF channels 62, 63 or 64, in the routines described below, at the times shown in the following table.

Routine A (VHF & MF)

Full MSI broadcast – new Gale Warnings, Storm Warnings and Navigation Warnings will be broadcast when received. Such warnings may be announced on Digital Selective Calling (DSC). The local Inshore Waters Forecast and Outlook, Shipping Forecast, WZ Navigation Warnings, SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS and the Three-Day Fisherman's Forecast, will be broadcast when and where appropriate. (Three-day Fisherman's Forecasts, primarily for the benefit of fishing fleets in the North Sea, Northern and Western Isles and the South Western Approaches, are broadcast from 1st October until 31st March).

Routine B (VHF Only)

New Gale Warnings, Storm Warnings and Navigation Warnings, local Inshore Waters Forecast and Outlook will be broadcast on VHF & MF when received. Such warnings may be announced on Digital Selective Calling (DSC).

Broadcasting Station	Shipping Forecast areas	Inshore Waters Forecast areas	Broadcast times A broadcast (local time)	Broadcast times B broadcast (local time)	Broadcast aeriels	VHF channel / MF frequency
Shetland Coastguard	Viking Cromarty Fair isle Faroes	1 - Cape Wrath to Rattray Head, including Orkney 18 - Shetland Isles and 60 nautical mile radius	0710 & 1910	0110, 0410, 1010, 1310, 1610, 2210	Saxavord	63
					Collafirth	64
					Shetland	62
					Fitful	63
					Wideford	64
					Collafirth MF	1770 KHz
Aberdeen Coastguard	Forties Cromarty Forth Tyne Fair Isle	1 - Cape Wrath to Rattray Head, including Orkney, 2 - Rattray Head to Berwick-upon-Tweed	0730 & 1930	0130, 0430, 1030, 1330, 1630, 2230	Durness	63
					Noss Head	62
					Rosemarkie	64
					Windy Head	63
					Gregness	64
					Inverbervie	63
					Fifeness	62
					Craigkelly	63
St Abbs head	64					
					Gregness MF	2226 KHz
Humber Coastguard	Tyne Dogger Fisher German Bight Humber Thames	3 - Berwick-upon-Tweed to Whitby 4 - Whitby to Gibraltar Point 5 - Gibraltar Point to North Foreland	0750 & 1950	0150, 0450, 1050, 1350, 1650, 2250	Newton	63
					Cullercoats	64
					Boulby	63
					Ravenscar	64
					Flamborough	63
					Easington	64
					Mablethorpe	62
					Guys head	63
					Langham	64
					Trimingham	63
					Caister	64
Lowestoft	63					
					Cullercoats MF	1925 KHz
Dover Coastguard	Humber Thames Dover Wight	5 - Gibraltar Point to North Foreland 6 - North Foreland to Selsey Bill	0710 & 1910	0110, 0410, 1010, 1310, 1610, 2210	Bawdsey	62
					Walton	63
					Bradwell	64
					Shoeburyness	63
					Langdon	64
					Fairlight	62

Broadcasting Station	Shipping Forecast areas	Inshore Waters Forecast areas	Broadcast times A broadcast (local time)	Broadcast times B broadcast (local time)	Broadcast aerals	VHF channel / MF frequency
Solent Coastguard	Dover Wight Portland Plymouth	6 - North Foreland to Selsey Bill 7 – Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis 8 - Lyme Regis to Land's End, including the Isles of Scilly	0730 & 1930	0130, 0430, 1030, 1330, 1630, 2230	Newhaven Boniface Needles Portland Beer Head	64 63 64 63 64
Falmouth Coastguard	Portland Plymouth Sole Lundy Fastnet	8 - Lyme Regis to Land's End, including the Isles of Scilly 9 - Land's End to St David's Head, including the Bristol Channel	0710 & 1910	0110, 0410, 1010, 1310, 1610, 2210	Berry Head Dartmouth Prawle Rame Head Fowey Falmouth Lizard Scillies Trevose	63 10 62 64 10 62 63 64 62
					Scillies MF	1880 KHz
Milford Haven Coastguard	Lundy Fastnet Irish sea	9 - Land's End to St David's Head, including the Bristol Channel 10 - St David's Head to Great Orme's Head, Including St George's Channel	0750 & 1950	0150, 0450, 1050, 1350, 1650, 2250	Hartland Combe Martin Severn St Hilary Mumbles Tenby St Anns Dinas Blaenplwyf	64 63 64 63 64 62 62 64 62

Broadcasting Station	Shipping Forecast areas	Inshore Waters Forecast areas	Broadcast times A broadcast (local time)	Broadcast times B broadcast (local time)	Broadcast aerals	VHF channel / MF frequency
Holyhead Coastguard (A)	Irish Sea	10 - St David's Head to Great Orme's Head, Including St George's Channel 11 - Great Orme's Head to the Mull of Galloway	0750 & 1950	0150, 0450, 1050, 1350, 1650, 2250	Great Orme South Stack	64 63
Holyhead Coastguard (B) (Formerly Liverpool Coastguard)	Irish Sea	11 - Great Orme's Head to the Mull of Galloway 12 - Isle of Man	0730 & 1930	0130, 0430, 1030, 1330, 1630, 2230	Moel-Y-Parc Calbeck Langthwaite Snaefell	63 63 62 64
Belfast Coastguard	Irish Sea Malin Hebrides Rockall	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	2010 & 0810	0210, 0510, 1110, 1410, 1710, 2310	Limivady West Torr Black-Mountain Orlock Loughnavar Slieve Martin Greenock Law hill Rhu Staffnish Kilchiaran South-Knapdale	10 64 63 62 64 64 62 64 10 62 63
					Tiree MF	1883 KHz
Stornoway Coastguard	Rockall Malin Hebrides Bailey Fair Isle Faeroes Southeast Iceland	15 - Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point 16 - The Minch 17 - Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath	0710 & 1910	0110, 0410, 1010, 1310, 1610, 2210	Torasay Tiree Glengorm Arisaig Barra Drumfearn Skriag Clettraval Rodel Melvaig Forsnaval Portnaguran Butt of Lewis	10 63 62 64 10 63 10 63 62 64 62 63 10
					Butt of Lewis MF	1743 KHz
		19 - Channel Islands	Available on request via telephone			

MF

MSI Broadcasts will continue to be broadcast from the following MF Radio Sites on the designated frequencies shown below, with an initial announcement on 2182 kHz MF.

Tiree and Butt of Lewis may also include GUNFACTS and SUBFACTS information on MF relevant to North Atlantic NATO exercises, but only when advised by the Ministry of Defence.

MF Radio Site	Frequency	Routine A
Tiree	1883 kHz	08:10, 20:10
Shetland	1770 kHz	07:10, 19:10
Butt of Lewis	1743 kHz	07:10, 19:10
Scillies	1880 kHz	07:10, 19:10
Gregness	2226 kHz	07:30, 19:30
Cullercoats	1925 kHz	07:50, 19:50

BBC RADIO 4 WEATHER BULLETINS

Radio 4 broadcasts weather bulletins as follows:

00:48	LW, MW, FM	Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecast, weather reports from coastal stations and the Inshore Waters Forecast
05:20	LW, MW, FM	Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecast, weather reports from coastal stations and the Inshore Waters Forecast
12:00	LW	Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecast
17:54	LW (FM weekends only)	Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecast

RADIO MEDICAL ADVICE LINK CALLS (MEDILINK)

If the Master or Skipper of any vessel requires medical advice, they should contact the Coastguard on VHF channel 16 (156.8 MHz), VHF or MF DSC, requesting "Radio Medical Advice". In an urgent situation, you should broadcast an Individual Urgency alert using VHF or MF DSC followed by a call VHF channel 16 or MF 2182 kHz, and Using the Standard Marine Communication Phrase "PAN PAN".

The Coastguard will give priority to requests for Radio Medical Advice. A doctor from a hospital participating in the radio medical advice service will be contacted by telephone and will be linked to the vessel through the Coastguard via an appropriate VHF channel or MF frequency. While the call is being placed, the coastguard will establish additional information with the vessel relating to position, a description of the vessel, and if appropriate, brief details of the casualty.

VHF Channels 62, 63 and 64 permit duplex working and will normally be used for these medi-link calls.

Note: The radio medical advice service is free of charge. All radio and telephone traffic to and from The HM Coastguard Service is recorded for the purposes of public safety, preventing and detecting crime.

REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The master or skipper of a vessel requesting medical assistance or evacuation for an injured or sick person must seek Radio Medical Advice before HM Coastguard arranges any rescue. While the call is being placed, the Coastguard will seek to obtain some additional information and may put rescue resources on standby. In exceptional cases, the Coastguard may send a lifeboat or helicopter, but it is obliged to arrange a Radio Medical Advice call for the vessel in all cases.

EVACUATION OF A SICK OR INJURED PERSON FROM A VESSEL

Taking into account the symptoms and implications of the patient's condition, the doctor will determine a course of action. This could be to treat on board, proceed to nearest or next port, or to evacuate. The doctor and the Coastguard will discuss the need and priority, as well as the options, before agreeing a course of action. Medical evacuation cannot be arranged on the advice of a physician outside the Radio Medical Advice service. Therefore, all requests for medical assistance must be arranged through this service.

Please note: HM Coastguard has neither the facility nor the mandate to undertake commercial radiotelephone traffic.

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