

## 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.gmdss.org/>

### NAVTEX

Maritime Safety Information and additional weather information is transmitted by NAVTEX on 518 kHz in English at the following times:

#### CULLERCOATS – 518 kHz (G)

Gale warnings - when received and at:	0100	0500	0900	1300	1700	2100
24 hour forecast and outlook	0900	2100				
Extended outlook (3-5 days)	0100					
WZ navigation warnings	0100	0500	0900	1300	1700	2100
Tidal surge warnings –	When received					
Navarea one warnings	0500	1700				

#### NITON – 518 kHz (E)

Gale warnings - when received and at:	0040	0440	0840	1240	1640	2040
24 hour forecast and outlook	0840	2040				
Extended outlook (3-5 days)	0040					
WZ navigation warnings	0040	0440	0840	1240	1640	2040
Tidal surge warnings	When received					
SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS	0440	1640				

Navarea One Warnings 0440 1640

### **PORTPATRICK - 518 kHz (O)**

Gale warnings - when received  
and at: 0220 0620 1020 1420 1820 2220

24 hour forecast and outlook 0620 1820

Extended outlook (3-5 days) 0220

WZ navigation warnings 0220 0620 1020 1420 1820 2220

SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS 0620 1820

Navarea one warnings 0220 1420

### **OOSTENDE - 518 kHz (T)**

Gale warnings (Dover & Thames) 0310 0710 1110 1510 1910 2310

Weather forecast 0710 1910

### **OOSTENDE - 518 kHz (V)**

Navigation warnings 0200 0600 1000 1400 1800 2200

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)  
0240 0640 1040 1440 1840 2240

Gale warnings and 24 Hour forecast - Shannon, Rockall, Malin and Bailey  
0640 1840

Irish navigation warnings for North, NW and W coasts of Ireland and approaches.  
0240 1040 1440 2240

### **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 forecast - Areas 1 to 5 and 18	0720	1120	1920	2320
Current weather observations - Eastern coastal areas	0320	1120	1520	2320.

## **NITON - 490 kHz (I)**

Inshore forecast - Areas 5 to 9 and 19	0120	0520	1320	1720
Current weather observations - South coastal areas and English Channel	0120	0920	1320	2120.

## **PORTPATRICK - 490 kHz (C)**

Inshore Forecast - Areas 9 - 17	0020	0820	1220	2020
Current weather observations - Western coastal areas	0020	0420	1220	1620.

## **Malin Head – 490 kHz (A)**

Inshore forecast – Areas 13 to 17	0000	0400	0800	1200	1600	2000
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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**

MSI is broadcast on VHF channels 23, 84 or 86, (or exceptionally on channel 10). 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 aerials, 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.

Negative tidal surge warnings are issued as a WZ on receipt, and at hourly intervals until they are absorbed into the next regular broadcast.

## **METEOROLOGICAL WARNINGS**

Meteorological forecasts are broadcast at three hourly intervals and include inshore waters forecasts and gale warnings. Shipping forecasts for UK sea areas are broadcast twice daily. Gale warnings for UK sea areas are broadcast as soon as possible after we receive them 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 forecast to indicate that a strong wind warning is in operation for the time covered by the forecast.

You can also find latest marine observations; shipping forecasts and gale warnings; inshore waters forecasts and strong wind warnings on the Met Office website and the BBC Weather website.

An enhanced extended (3 to 5 day) outlook is provided on the 518 NAVTEX Service covering the shipping forecast areas and is grouped into three areas covered by Portpatrick, Cullercoats and Niton i.e. North Sea, English Channel and SW Approaches, West Coast and Atlantic.

### **Notes:**

- Average wind speed is given in the Beaufort scale; wind gusts may be up to 40% stronger than the averages which are quoted.
- The mean predicted wave height is quoted; therefore maximum waves may be up to twice the significant wave height stated.

### **VHF**

MSI will be broadcast by HM Coastguard on either VHF channels 23, 84, or 86, in the routines described below, at the times shown in the following table.

#### **Routine A (VHF & MF)**

Full MSI broadcast - Gale Warnings<sup>1</sup>, The Local Inshore waters forecast and outlook, Shipping Forecast, WZ Navigation Warnings including Negative Tidal Surge Warnings<sup>2</sup>, SUBFACTS & GUNFACTS and the Three-Day Fisherman's Forecast, when and where appropriate.

#### **Routine B (VHF Only)**

Gale Warnings<sup>1</sup>, The Local Inshore waters forecast and outlook.

<sup>1</sup> New gale warnings, storm warnings and navigation warnings will be broadcast (VHF & MF) when we receive them. Such warnings may be announced on DSC.

<sup>2</sup> Negative tidal surge warnings will be broadcast (VHF only) when we receive them, and at hourly intervals until the next scheduled routine broadcast. Such warnings may also be announced on DSC.

	<b>Inshore Forecast Area</b>	<b>Shipping Forecast Areas</b>	<b>MSI Routine A Broadcast</b>	<b>MSI Routine B Broadcast</b>	<b>Broadcast Aerials</b>	<b>VHF Channel / MF Frequency</b>
<b>1</b>	Cape Wrath to Rattray Head, including Orkney	Fair Isle Viking Cromarty Forties	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Durness Wideford Hill Noss Head Rosemarkie Windy Head <b>Gregness MF</b>	23 86 84 86 23 <b>2226 kHz</b>
<b>2</b>	Rattray Head to Berwick-upon-Tweed	Cromarties Forties Forth	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Gregness Inverbervie Fife Ness Craigkelly St Abbs Crosslaw <b>Gregness MF</b>	86 23 84 23 86 <b>2226 kHz</b>
<b>3</b>	Berwick-upon-Tweed to Whitby	Cromarties Forties Forth	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	Newton Cullercoats Boulby <b>Cullercoats MF</b>	23 86 23 <b>1925 kHz</b>
<b>4</b>	Whitby to Gibraltar Point	Humber	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	Ravenscar Flamborough Easington Skegness <b>Cullercoats MF</b>	86 23 86 84 <b>1925 kHz</b>
<b>5</b>	Gibraltar Point to North Foreland	Thames	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Guy's Head Langham Trimingham Caister Lowestoft Bawdsey Walton Bradwell Shoeburyness	23 86 23 86 23 84 23 86 23
<b>6</b>			0710	0110 0410	North Foreland Langdon	86 86

	North Foreland to Selsey Bill	Dover Wight	& 1910	1010 1310 1610 2210	Fairlight Newhaven	84 86
7	Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis	Wight Portland	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Boniface Down Needles St Albans Head Grove Beer Head	23 86 23 84 86
8	Lyme Regis to Lands End, including the Isles of Scilly	Portland Plymouth Sole Fastnet Biscay Fitzroy	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Scillies Lizard Falmouth Fowey Rame Head East Prawle Dartmouth Berry Head <b>Scillies MF</b>	86 23 84 10 86 84 10 23 <b>1880 kHz</b>
9	Lands End to St Davids Head, including the Bristol Channel	Shannon Fastnet Lundy	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	St Ann's Head Tenby St Hilary Severn Bridge Combe Martin Hartland Point Trevose Head <b>Scillies MF</b>	84 84 23 86 23 86 84 <b>1880 kHz</b>
10	St Davids Head to Great Orme's Head, Including St Georges Channel	Irish Sea	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	Great Orme South Stack Blaenplwyf Dinas Head	86 23 84 86
11	Great Orme Head to the Mull of Galloway	Irish Sea	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Moel-y-parc Caldbeck Langthwaite	23 23 84
12	Isle of Man	Irish Sea	0730 &	0130 0430 1030	Snaefell	86

			1930	1330 1630 2230		
13	Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough	Irish Sea Rockall Malin	0810 & 2010	0210 0510 1110 1410 1710 2310	Limavady West Torr Black Mountain Orlock Head Loch Navar Slieve Martin	84 86 23 84 86 86
14	Mull of Galloway to Mull of Kintyre including the Firth of Clyde and North Channel	Irish Sea Malin	0810 & 2010	0210 0510 1110 1410 1710 2310	Greenock Law Hill Rhu Stafnish	84 86 10
15	Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point	Rockall Malin	0810 & 2010	0210 0510 1110 1410 1710 2310	Kilchiaran South Knapdale Glengorm Tiree Torosay <b>Tiree MF</b>	84 23 84 23 10 <b>1883 kHz</b>
16	The Minch	Hebrides	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Portnaguran Melvaig Rodel Skriag Drumfearn Arisaig	23 86 84 10 23 86
17	Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath	Rockall Hebrides	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Butt of Lewis Forsnaval Clettraval Barra <b>Butt of Lewis MF</b>	10 84 23 10 <b>1743 kHz</b>
18	Shetland Isles and 60 nautical mile radius	Faeroes Fair Isle Viking N Ultshire S Ultshire	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Saxavord Fitful Head Lerwick Collafirth <b>Shetland MF</b>	23 23 84 86 <b>1770 kHz</b>

**MF**

For the time being, 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.

<b>MF Radio Site</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Routine A</b>
• Tiree	1883 kHz	0810, 2010*
• Shetland	1770 kHz	0710, 1910
• Butt of Lewis	1743 kHz	0710, 1910*
• Scillies	1880 kHz	0710, 1910
• Gregness	2226 kHz	0730, 1930
• Cullercoats	1925 kHz	0750, 1950

Three-day 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. The three day forecast will be broadcast as part of the standard MSI schedule times. These broadcasts are made twice daily on MF.

Shetland	Northern North Sea including sea areas: Fair Isle, Viking, Cromarty and Forties.
Gregness	Northern North Sea including sea areas: Viking, Cromarty, Forth, Forties, Fisher and Fair Isle.
Cullercoats	Southern North Sea including sea areas: Tyne Dogger, German Bight, Humber and Thames.
Scillies	South Western Approaches including sea areas: Plymouth, Fastnet, Shannon, Sole and Fitzroy.
Butt of Lewis	North Western Approaches including sea areas: Malin, Hebrides, Rockall, Faeroes.

\*These Broadcasts may also include GUNFACTS and SUBFACTS information on MF relevant to North Atlantic NATO exercises, but only when advised by the Ministry of Defence.



## **BBC RADIO 4 WEATHER BULLETINS**

Radio 4 broadcasts weather bulletins as follows:

- |      |                        |  |
|------|------------------------|--|
| 0048 | LW, MW, FM             | Gale warnings, shipping forecast, weather reports from coast stations and the inshore waters forecast. |
| 0520 | LW, MW, FM             | Gale warnings, shipping forecast, weather reports from coast stations and the inshore waters forecast. |
| 1201 | LW                     | Gale warnings and shipping forecast.   |
| 1754 | LW, (FM Weekends only) | Gale warnings and 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 23, 84 or 86 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 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.

Tel: 023 8032 9100 Web: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk) MCA 24-hour information service: 0870 6006505  
E-mail: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

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If you have broadcast issues relating to NAVTEX, contact your nearest Coastguard or the SAR Communications Manager on 01326 310800.

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