

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

PUBLISHED BY THE
 MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY
 SPRING PLACE
 105 COMMERCIAL ROAD
 SOUTHAMPTON
 HAMPSHIRE
 SO15 1EG
 UK
 MCA Switchboard Tel: 023 8032 9100
 E-mail: infoline@mcga.gov.uk
 Web: www.gov.uk/mca

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; 23:10
Weather Forecast	07:10; 19:10

OOSTENDE - 518 kHz (V)

Navigation Warnings	02:00; 06:00; 10:00; 14:00; 18:00; 22:00
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
---	--

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).

Inshore Forecast Area		Shipping Forecast Areas	MSI Routine A Broadcast	MSI Routine B Broadcast	Broadcast Aerials	VHF Channel / MF Frequency
1	Cape Wrath to Rattray Head, including Orkney	Fair Isle Viking Cromarty Forties	0730 & 1930	0130	Durness	63
				0430	Wideford	64
				1030	Noss Head	62
				1330	Rosemarkie	64
				1630	Windy Head	63
				2230	Gregness MF	2226 kHz
2	Rattray Head to Berwick-upon-Tweed	Cromarties Forties Forth	0730 & 1930	0130	Gregness	64
				0430	Inverbervie	63
				1030	Fifeness	62
				1330	Craigkelly	63
				1630	St Abbs Head	64
				2230	Gregness MF	2226 kHz
3	Berwick-upon-Tweed to Whitby	Cromarties Forties Forth	0750 & 1950	0150	Newton	63
				0450	Cullercoats	64
				1050	Boulby	63
				1350	Cullercoats MF	1925 kHz
				1650		
				2250		
4	Whitby to Gibraltar Point	Humber	0750 & 1950	0150	Ravenscar	64
				0450	Flamborough	63
				1050	Easington	64
				1350	Cullercoats MF	1925 kHz
				1650		
				2250		
5	Gibraltar Point to North Foreland	Thames	0710 & 1910	0110	Guys Head	63
				0410	Langham	64
				1010	Trimingham	63
				1310	Caister	64
				1610	Lowestoft	63
				2210	Bawdsey	62
					Walton	63
					Bradwell	64
					Shoeburyness	63
6	North Foreland to Selsey Bill	Dover Wight	0710 & 1910	0110	Langdon	64
				0410	Fairlight	62
				1010	Newhaven	64
				1310		
				1610		
				2210		

Inshore Forecast Area		Shipping Forecast Areas	MSI Routine A Broadcast	MSI Routine B Broadcast	Broadcast Aerials	VHF Channel / MF Frequency
7	Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis	Wight Portland	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Boniface Down Needles Portland (Grove) Beer Head	63 64 63 64
8	Lyme Regis to Land's End, including the Isles of Scilly	Portland Plymouth Sole Fastnet Biscay Fitzroy	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Isles of Scilly Lizard Falmouth Fowey Rame Head East Prawle Dartmouth Berry Head Scilly MF	64 63 62 10 64 62 10 63 1880 kHz
9	Land's End to St David's Head, including the Bristol Channel	Shannon Fastnet Lundy	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	St Ann Tenby St Hilary Severn Combe Martin Hartland Trevose Scilly MF	62 62 63 64 63 64 62 1880 kHz
10	St David's Head to Great Orme's Head, including St George's Channel	Irish Sea	0750 & 1950	0150 0450 1050 1350 1650 2250	Great Orme South Stack Blaenplwyf Dinas	64 63 62 64
11	Great Orme's Head to the Mull of Galloway	Irish Sea	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Moel-y-Parc Calbeck Langthwaite	63 63 62

Inshore Forecast Area		Shipping Forecast Areas	MSI Routine A Broadcast	MSI Routine B Broadcast	Broadcast Aerials	VHF Channel / MF Frequency
12	Isle of Man	Irish Sea	0730 & 1930	0130 0430 1030 1330 1630 2230	Snaefell	64
13	Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough	Irish Sea Rockall Malin	0810 & 2010	0210 0510 1110 1410 1710 2310	Limividy West Torr Black Mountain Orlock Loughnavar Slieve Martin	10 64 63 62 64 64
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 Staffnish	62 64 10
15	Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point	Rockall Malin	0810 & 2010	0210 0510 1110 1410 1710 2310	Kilchiaran South Knapdale Glengorm Tiree Torosay Tiree MF	62 63 62 63 10 1883 kHz
16	The Minch	Hebrides	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Portnaguran Melvaig Rodel Skriag Drumfearn Arisaig	63 64 62 10 63 64
17	Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath	Rockall Hebrides	0710 & 1910	0110 0410 1010 1310 1610 2210	Butt of Lewis Forsnaval Cletraval Barra Butt of Lewis MF	10 62 63 10 1743 kHz

Inshore Forecast Area		Shipping Forecast Areas	MSI Routine A Broadcast	MSI Routine B Broadcast	Broadcast Aerials	VHF Channel / MF Frequency
18	Shetland Isles and 60 nautical mile radius	Faeroes	0710 & 1910	0110	Saxavord	63
		Fair Isle		0410	Fitful	63
		Viking		1010	Shetland	62
		N Utsire		1310	Collafirth	64
		S Utsire		1610	Shetland MF	1770 kHz
			2210			
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.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel: 023 8032 9100

E-mail: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/mca

www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-safety-information-leaflet