



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

Marine Guideline

No. 7-41-2

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

May/2021

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: Hydrographic Information: Cooperation with Hydrographic Services

References:

- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Consolidated Edition 2014* - Chapter IV - *Radio communications*
- (b) **IMO Circular COMSAR.1/Circ.58/Rev.1**, Lists of Navarea and Metarea coordinators, issued 31 October 2018

PURPOSE

This Marine Guideline reminds all mariners that most navigational information appearing on charts and in publications comes from information exchanges between the hydrographic offices of many maritime nations. These exchanges include light lists, sailing directions, and coastal pilots. This Guideline supersedes version Oct/06. Its amendments refer to the latest NAVAREA Coordinators' information in IMO COMSAR Circular 58 Rev.1.

APPLICABILITY

This Guideline benefits Masters and Deck Watch Officers who provide a vital portion of the required information.

GUIDELINES

- 1.0** The world's hydrographic services urgently need reports of changes in aids to navigation and other hydrographic data to produce and maintain navigation charts and publications. Worldwide, most hydrographic offices issue warnings of dangers to navigation by radio broadcasts and publish notices to mariners to allow mariners to correct and maintain their charts and publications.
- 2.0** The International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974) requires the Master of every ship observing dangerous ice, derelicts, tropical storms, or any other imminent danger to navigation, to report the hazard. The Master must first warn ships in the vicinity, and then must report the danger to the first coastal station to which communication can be made, with a request that it be transmitted to the appropriate authorities. Sample messages are contained in SOLAS 1974, Chapter V.

- 3.0** Masters and deck officers of Marshall Islands-flagged ships are encouraged to notify the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator for observations of changes in aids to navigation, such as lights, buoys, electronic aids, beacons and soundings found to be different from those charted, magnetic disturbances, ocean currents and changes in port facilities.
- 4.0** **Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coastal radio stations.** In general, items to report include major aids to navigation discrepancies, discovery of mines, wrecks, underwater obstructions, shoals less than 30 meters deep, floating dangers to shipping, failure of important aids to navigation such as major coastal lights, and any other situation deemed important for safety of life at sea.
- 5.0** NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinator contact points can be found in IMO [COMSAR.1/Circ.58/Rev.1](#).

APPENDIX A: Worldwide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) contacts

