



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant (CG-5PC)
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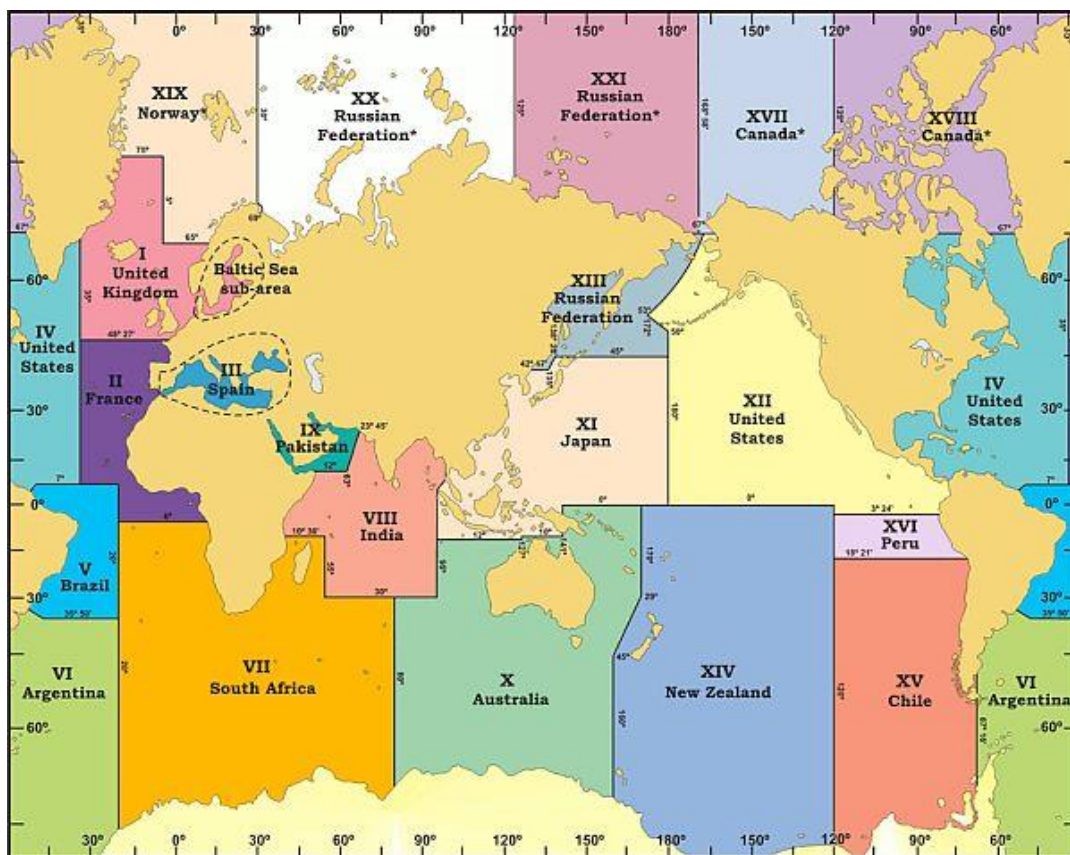
Worldwide Navigational Warnings Service

On 30 August 2020, a report that [Over 50 warships were involved in Russian Navy exercises that surprised Alaska trawlers](#). Although many fishing in the area were caught by surprise, a warning of the planned exercise was broadcast by satellite to shipping over the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Worldwide Navigational Warnings Service on 19 August, five days prior to the start of the exercise.

NAVAREAs and METAREAs

The International Maritime Organization, in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organization and World Meteorological Organization, established a worldwide navigational warnings service to ships. Twenty-one navigational and meteorological areas (NAVAREAs and METAREAs) were established with responsibility for coordination and broadcast assigned regionally to various countries. In the U.S., the National Geospatial-intelligence Agency (NGA) was assigned responsibility for NAVAREAs IV and XII. Similarly, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is responsible for METAREA IV and XII. Most NAVAREAs also [post their navigational warnings online](#).

GMDSS Navigational Areas (NAVAREAs)



This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.

Ships fitted with an inexpensive GMDSS Inmarsat-C or Iridium LT-3100S ship earth station will receive these international NAVAREA and METAREA warnings, as well as alerts from rescue coordination centers. These satellite terminals can also transmit distress alerts and communicate with rescue coordination centers globally. The five Arctic NAVAREAs and METAREAs XVII through XXI are fully covered by Iridium.

Please send questions concerning this Marine Safety Information Bulletin to USCG Spectrum Management and Communications Policy Division (CG-672) at HQS-SMB-CG-672@USCG.MIL or to the [Coast Guard Navigation Center's "Contact Us" page](#) by selecting "Maritime Telecommunications" as the subject.