

**MARINE INFORMATION****UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NOTICE TO MARINERS CHANGE IN DISTRIBUTION**

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is in the midst of a hard copy to digital transition program. NGA has statutory requirements to produce and make available safety of navigation data and will continue to meet this obligation to the mariner. The weekly Notice to Mariners is available free of charge to all customers through the Internet on our website. Beginning with Notice to Mariners No. 1, 2005 NGA will no longer print and distribute hard copy versions of this weekly product.

The digital version of the weekly Notice to Mariners is available on the Maritime Safety Information website at <http://pollux.nss.nga.mil/> or through the NGA home page ([www.nga.mil](http://www.nga.mil)). All of the information and data contained in the hard copy Notice is also available on this website. Customers can rely on the same quality of data that the Notice to Mariners provides to the civil and military mariner with the advantages afforded by the Internet. Customers can access daily navigational safety updates and not be hampered by weekly mail deliveries of the hard copy Notice.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NOTICE TO MARINERS VIA E-MAIL**

To subscribe to the US Notice to Mariners via e-mail, go to <http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>. Then click on the "Subscribe to the US Notice to Mariners Via E-mail" link, which is located halfway down the page.

Upon subscribing successfully the US Notice to Mariners will be e-mailed to the requesting address every weekend, with the following limitations:

The notice sent via e-mail is listed on the Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Website in the "Notice to Mariners" section as "Entire NtM". Graphics provided in this version are inadequate for navigation purposes. Navigation-quality chartlets are available for download on the MSI website as needed.

Many networks and e-mail applications have restrictions on file sizes for e-mail attachments. In order to ensure all notices are received, the limit on file sizes for the receiving account should be changed to 2.5 Mb. Contact your system administrator or help desk for more assistance.

In order to subscribe, the customer must be logged into the e-mail account to which they wish the notice sent. When the hyperlink below is selected, an e-mail window is generated with the "To" and "From" addresses filled out. The "Subject" and "Body" will be blank. Selecting "Send" subscribes the user to the e-mailed Notice to Mariners.

Instructions to unsubscribe from the notice are included in each Notice to Mariners e-mail.

**ARCTIC MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (AMSI)**

The Arctic Maritime Safety Information (AMSI) database for the Arctic Ocean and other high-latitude waters is now established.

The purpose of this database is for reporting and sharing information about maritime hazards to both surface ships and submarines (military and commercial) in the international waters of the Arctic Ocean and adjacent northern seas.

This information is applicable to any person who physically collects data from, or works in the Arctic Ocean.

**BACKGROUND:** The Maritime Safety Information Division of the (United States) National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) provides maritime safety information to mariners worldwide.

The various types of information provided by the Maritime Safety Information Division alert mariners to military operations, major navigational aid failures and changes, large drifting navigational hazards, cable laying, scientific and survey operations, search and rescue activities, and any other event or situation deemed a serious hazard to navigation. This information is distributed to mariners worldwide by several different methods.

At the present time, there is no centralized system for collecting or distributing maritime safety information in the Arctic Ocean. The northern limits for existing reports on maritime safety information around the world are:

- At 67°N just north of the Bering Strait;
- At 67°N across the Davis Strait between Greenland and Canada; and
- At 71°N across the Norwegian and East Greenland Seas from the Norwegian North Cape to the Greenland Coast.

The region north of these limits is covered by the new Arctic Maritime Safety Information database.

There is now growing evidence that the ice cover in the Arctic Ocean and northern seas is decreasing, both in mass and in extent. Such changes in the Arctic environment logically inspire concepts for commercial maritime exploitation of the area, and concurrently motivate increased research in the ocean. Because greater use of the Arctic is being realized by many elements of society - commercial, military and scientific - it is appropriate that the Arctic Ocean be as respected as the other temperate oceans and navigated with concern for the presence of maritime hazards.

**APPLICABILITY:** The AMSI database is intended for those who deploy structures in the Arctic Ocean, conduct Arctic Ocean based activities, or deploy scientific remote sensing systems in the Arctic Ocean – similar to activities and objects that are now considered hazards and are reported as such in the temperate oceans. Similarly, those mariners who use the high-latitude waters (military and civilian) should become familiar with the database to enable them to obtain maritime hazard information previously unavailable.

The hazards considered appropriate for reporting include, but are not limited to: rock dredges, grab samplers, piston corers, Niskin bottle rosettes, sediment traps, current meters, geophysical operations, any bottom moored buoy or bottom mounted structure, and unmanned or autonomous underwater vehicles (UUV/AUV). Objects suspended through the ice to a depth of 30 meters or greater should also be reported.

**PROCEDURE:** At present, for the Arctic Ocean, there is no internationally defined navigation safety area, no area control authority, nor any broad-area-capable radio broadcast by which maritime warnings, hazards to navigation, or Notices to Mariners (NtM's) can be collected and distributed to vessels at sea. The database described here is intended to fill this void with a simple internet-based system predicated on timely reporting and posting of hazards. Mariners anticipating their voyage to the Arctic should consult the NGA web site (<http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>) in advance to obtain a list of all submitted hazards. Concurrent with the posting of hazards, NGA has established the Arctic Maritime Safety Information (AMSI) database.

The NGA Maritime Safety Information Division will:

1. Manage a database of information that will support the safety of vessels of all nations at sea in the international waters of Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas outside (north) of all current maritime safety information systems.
2. Prepare and make available a form for reporting all maritime hazards in the Arctic Region. This form is available on this website and in Section III of the weekly Notice to Mariners.
3. Maintain a "Arctic Maritime Safety Information" query page on the NGA Maritime Safety Information Division Web site (<http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>) under the "Broadcast Messages" menu item. All maritime hazards and warnings reported to NGA in the international waters of the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas will be posted to this query page.

Procedures to report a maritime hazard in the Arctic:

Individuals or organizations creating, placing or observing a maritime hazard in the Arctic area defined above are requested to do the following (Refer to AMSI Reporting Sheet in the back of this Notice to Mariners):

1. Document the hazard.
  - a. Include the reporting individual/organization (with point of contact), voice telephone number and/or email address.
  - b. Describe the hazard – What is it? (e.g. dredge, buoy, current meter); How much of the water column is occupied? (e.g. "bottom to surface", "surface to 500m").
  - c. Where is the hazard located? Use Mercator coordinates. If drifting or moving in or outside of pack ice, provide insertion location. Provide set and drift and/or removal location, if known.
  - d. Date of insertion in the water.
  - e. Date of removal and/or cancellation of the hazard.
  - f. Indicate if the position of the hazard will be remotely monitored. Provide the website link where the most recent position of the hazard is posted (if any).
2. Submit report to NGA by email at [navsafety@nga.mil](mailto:navsafety@nga.mil), by telephone to the watch desk at 1-301-227-3147 or 1-800-362-6289, or by fax at 1-301-227-3731.
3. Individuals and organizations monitoring drifting hazards in the water for indefinite periods or longer than three weeks should provide a weekly updated position and current point of contact as in step 1 above.
4. Individuals and organizations with existing hazards now implanted in the Arctic Ocean are requested to submit Arctic Maritime Safety Information Report Sheets to ensure that the database is up-to-date.

### **REPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE DIGITAL NAUTICAL CHART (DNC)**

The distribution of DNC is authorized to U.S. Department of Defense and contractors. DNC updated by the vector product format (VPF) database update (VDU) is authorized for navigation on certified systems such as the electronic chart display and information system-navy (ECDIS-N) or comparable systems (33 CFR 164.01).

The DNC is an unclassified vector-based digital geospatial intelligence database depicting significant features essential for safe marine navigation. DNC consists of 29 DNC regions issued on CD-ROM and is also available over the NGA gateway:  
SIPRNET: <http://sps.stl.nga.smil.mil/products/dnc1/index.htm>  
JWICS: <http://jws.stl.nga.ic.gov/products/dnc1/index.htm>

Authorized users of DNC are requested to immediately report any safety of navigation related discrepancy that may be detected on DNC to NGA's 24-hour world-wide navigational warning service broadcast desk via:

- (1) DMS message to NGA NAVSAFETY
- (2) AUTODIN message to NGA NAVSAFETY BETHESDA MD//
- (3) NIPRNET e-mail to [navsafety@nga.mil](mailto:navsafety@nga.mil);
- (4) SIPRNET e-mail to [navsafety@nscn.nga.smil.mil](mailto:navsafety@nscn.nga.smil.mil)
- (5) Phone: 301-227-3147, 1-800-362-navy
- (6) DSN: 287-3147
- (7) Fax: 301-227-3731

In the report, the user should identify which electronic charting system/ECDIS-N, including the software version, is being used, the DNC library number, DNC CD edition number and a description of the discrepancy. Upon receipt of the report, NGA will take immediate action to determine if corrective action is necessary and, if so, will advise all users accordingly via the HYDROLANT and HYDROPAC broadcast service.