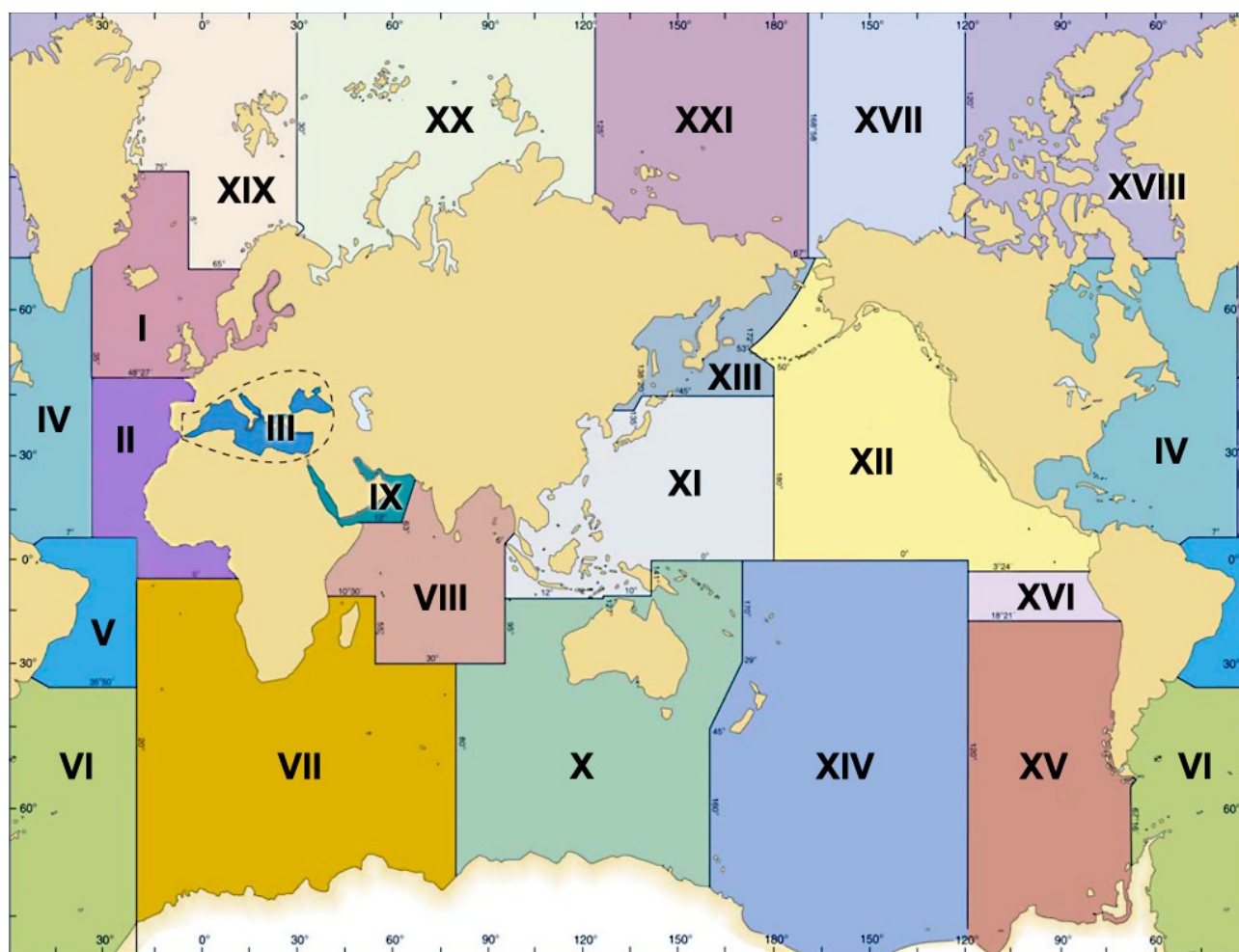


Worldwide DSC Navarea Group Call Allan Riches, Brunei Bay Radio

Or: How to give independent unrelated yachts access to a mutual support network using their DSC capable HF/SSB radios so individual cruisers or small groups of boats enjoying an uncongested island chain, isolated coastline or crossing an ocean, can easily and reliably contact other nearby cruisers or local boats for advice and information.

The Worldwide DSC Group Call system creates this network based on using a DSC Group Call ID linked to the vessel's present NAVAREA.

The world's sea areas are divided into 21 NAVAREAs for the purpose of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) consisting of Meteorological Forecasts, Meteorological Warnings, Navigation Warnings and Search and Rescue information.



To create and link into this network, yachts simply enter the Worldwide Group Call ID for their present NAVAREA into their radios (VHF and/or HF/SSB), so all radios maintain a constant watch for the identical DSC Group ID. For NAVAREA XI where Hong Kong is the Navarea Group ID is **043211000**. When this NAVAREA Group Call ID is sent/received, monitoring radios are triggered into an alert state, drawing the crews' attention to listen to the subsequent voice call. It's that easy to create and link into the network, 24/7.

Circumnavigating yachts, yachts in a long-distance race or rally, or yachts making extended cruises can enter into their radios all the Worldwide Group Call IDs for the NAVAREAs along their route. Local boats - dive operators, yachts, private power boats, charter boat operators, live-aboard surf/dive vessels, yachts engaged in offshore racing etc - enter only the Worldwide Group Call ID for their local NAVAREA into their VHF and HF/SSB radios. All these small-craft are now linked into a mutual support network, simply by maintaining a (silent) 24/7 DSC watch on their radios. If one vessel sends the NAVAREA DSC Group Call ID, it will connect to all the crews - known and unknown - who are in range of the sending radio.

The result is a Worldwide DSC Group Call system based on NAVAREAs. Each NAVAREA has been assigned a unique DSC Group Call ID. Once this is entered into any DSC capable radio - the radio will automatically monitor for DSC calls to this NAVAREA Group ID whenever the radio is switched on. This allows any vessel to easily contact all others monitoring this same NAVAREA Group Call ID.

This NAVAREA Group Call Network creates the ability to reliably contact any similarly equipped vessels, known and unknown, in radio range, 24/7. There is no need to listen to a noisy open speaker for calls, and no annoying radio speaker noise to make crews want to turn off the radio or turn down the volume so calls cannot be heard. Just let the smart DSC marine radio do the work of monitoring for calls while its speaker is muted.

Marine radio - VHF and MF/HF - remains the only communications service that is free to use, simultaneously links multiple mariners together by its unique broadcast feature, and works without needing to know who is around nor their satphone number; and without account credit. When you need a tow, some water, fuel or medical assistance from the nearby - perhaps visible - but unknown vessel whose satphone number you don't know, marine radio has the functional capability to establish a communication link. When beyond range of quick response coastal SAR resources contact with nearby vessels becomes critical. The modern marine radio is designed to achieve this, by broadcasting a DSC Group Call (for routine assistance) or by issuing a DSC Distress or Urgency alert to any known or unknown vessels in range. A satphone - with ample credit - can be a great backup for a proper marine radio if the radio is damaged or you wish to make a phone call to someone on shore, but it is no replacement for properly installed marine radio, and is unlikely to work in extreme conditions.

For SailMail (HF Radio email services) please contact Brunei Bay Radio – www.bruneibay.net/bbradio

For worldwide, low-cost, HF/SSB radio email, see the not-for-profit SailMail Association - www.sailmail.com

For any questions or suggestions on this NAVAREA Group Call system please email me at simon@stormforcemarine.com

or contact Allan Riches direct at radio@bruneibay.net

The 9 digit NAVAREA Group Call IDs for all 21 NAVAREAs are:

NAVAREA	NAVAREA Co-ordinator	NAVAREA Group Call ID
1 - I	UK	(Waiting for Assignment)
2 - II	France	022802000
3 - III	Spain	022502000
4 - IV	USA (east)	036904000
5 - V	Brazil	071005000
6 - VI	Argentina	070106000
7 - VII	South Africa	060107000
8 - VIII	India	041908000
9 - IX	Pakistan	046309000
10 - X	Australia	050310000
11 - XI	Japan	043211000
12 - XII	USA (west)	036912000
13 - XIII	Russia	027313000
14 - XIV	New Zealand	051214000
15 - XV	Chile	072515000
16 - XVI	Peru/USA	076016000
17 - XVII	Canada (NW)	031617000
18 - XVIII	Canada (NE)	031618000
19 - XIX	Norway	025919000
20 - XX	Russia (NW)	027320000
21 - XXI	Russia (NE)	027321000