

LRIT Group meeting no. 11
Agenda item III
6 May 2015

LRIT 11/3/2 (v.1.00)
Lisbon, 5 March 2015

Feedback from LRIT users

LRIT reporting rate for ships entering in a pre-defined area for monitoring illegal migration

Submitted by Italy

<i>Summary</i>	This paper defines the user needs for having an automatic change of reporting rate of LRIT ships in pre-defined areas.
<i>Action to be taken</i>	As per paragraph 3
<i>Related documents</i>	a) SOLAS Chap. V Reg 19-1 §8.1.3

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The LRIT system allows defining, in the DDP Server, areas (standing orders) where ships from any flag should report their 6-hour mandatory positions to the Flag that activated these standing orders. Currently if a user wants to change the reporting rate of one or several ships in these areas, the requests have to be done manually.

Furthermore the EU LRIT CDC User Web Interface allows defining, through the Alert System, areas where ships entering these areas may have their reporting rate changed automatically. In this case, emails can also be sent automatically when ships enter or leave these areas. This functionality is only available for Admin Users, e.g. when defining the Sensitive Area Monitoring (SAM) for EU NAVFOR.

At the 10th LRIT NCA meeting (Lisbon 29 October 2014), the Italian Maritime RCC invited EMSA to explore the possibility to change automatically the reporting rate for ships entering in a pre-defined area.

2. PROPOSAL OF ITALY

To face illegal migration the Italian Coast Guard (IMRCC Roma) is engaged in search and rescue operations outside the Italian Search and Rescue Region (SRR) and often inside neighbouring SRR areas. To perform this challenging task the MRCC Rome gathers information regarding naval assets (especially merchant ships transiting often in the area of interest) using Vessel Traffic Monitoring Information Systems. (e.g. AIS, LRIT, VTS and several online database).

Considering the geographic area where the activities take place, often without AIS data, the best information can be provided by LRIT system.

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In February 2015, the MRCC Rome was engaged in a SAR operation lasting many days, saving about 3500 migrants. On 13 February, 660 migrants were collected from 7 rubber boats. Two merchant ships were involved (M/N MSC Belle and M/N Gaz Synergy) supporting the ITCG. On 14 February, 574 migrants were rescued by Italian patrol boats and Frontex ships in the area shown in Figure 1:

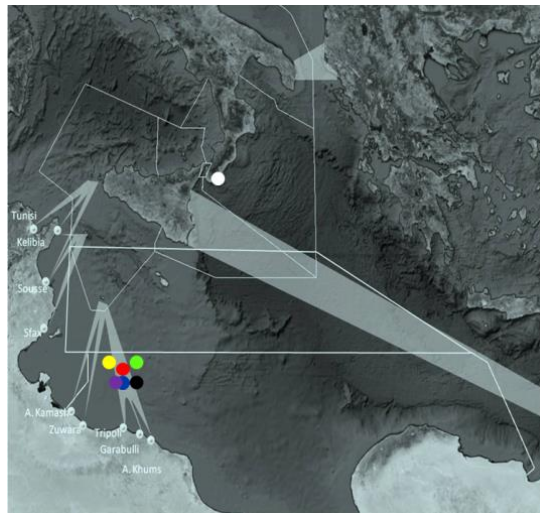


Figure 1 – Rescue operation

On 15 February, 2225 migrants on board 7 rubber boats and other 6 small boats were rescued by ITCG, Navy and GDF with the support of M/N Sestri Star, M/N Monte Cimone, M/N Gaz Concord and M/N Super Lady. Figure 2 shows the area of operations:

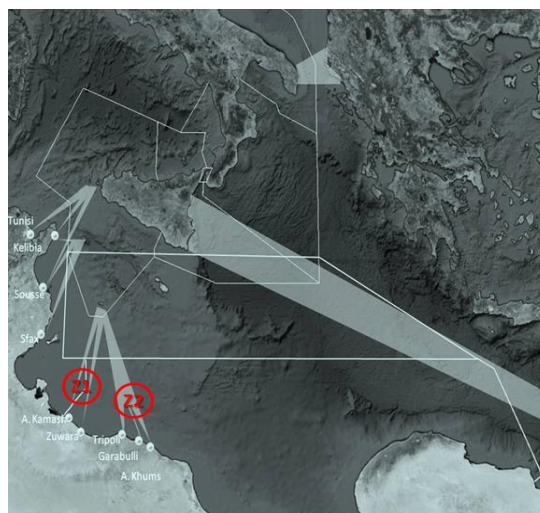


Figure 2 – Area of operations

Despite the possibilities that the existing "Standing orders area" provides, there is the need to increase the number of positions of the vessel received in the Standing orders area.

Italy invites EMSA to investigate the possibility to set up a functionality that would automatically change the reporting rate of ships (avoiding human intervention) when a ship enters in a defined area and to report back to the normal rate when a ship leaves the area.

These areas of interest should be defined:

- as coastal standing orders activated in the DDP;
- or as Geographical areas defined by LRIT NCAs and uploaded on the EU LRIT CDC User Web Interface. To get positions from all ships Flags, these geographical areas should be polygons, inside an activated standing order as indicated in Figure 3:

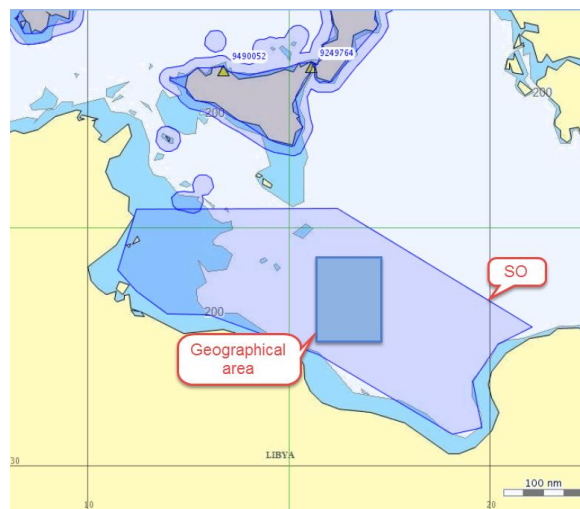


Figure 3 – Geographical area defined as a polygon inside an activated standing order

The reporting rate of all ships entering these areas will be changed automatically to the reporting rate set by the user. For each area, the user can define a reporting rate (e.g. 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, 3 hours) that can be different from the rate of another area.

The reporting rate shall be automatically set back to normal 6-hour reporting rate when ships leave the defined areas. The user can receive and email when a ship enters and leaves the areas (specific email content per area).

Another option which the Italy should invite EMSA to investigate is to allow the user to set-up the flags for which the reporting rate should be changed. Then only those ships for which the flags have been selected by the user will report at the new reporting rate defined by the user, in these areas. The selection of flags may be different from one area to the other.

3. ACTION REQUIRED

The members of the group are invited to note the proposal and take appropriate decision.