

Aegean Sea Safety & Emergency Radio Communications

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Greek territorial waters are defined as A1 GMDSS sea area.

Sea Area A1:

This area is within coverage of VHF coast stations where digital selective calling alert (DSC) is available (CH. 70/156.525 MHz) so you must use VHF capable transceivers with DSC capabilities. Typically, this area could extend 30 to 40 nautical miles (56 to 74 km) from a coastal radio station.

OLYMPIA RADIO

Olympia Radio is a GMDSS marine service that monitors 24/7 the VHF channel 16 and responds to MMSI 002371000. Olympia Radio broadcasts through the VHF frequencies weather reports, safety signals, announcements of gale warnings and preannouncements for the Mariners. Distress signals and MAYDAY are managed by Olympia Radio in coordination with the SAR units.

Olympia Radio is a communications network for the Greek seas, consisting of several remotely managed, unmanned radio stations that cover the whole Greek territorial waters.

Weather Reports UTC 0600, 1000, 1600, 2200
Safety Signals (Sea Bulletins) UTC 0500, 1100, 1730, 2330

Olympia Radio also issues VHF channel 16 broadcasts for Gale Warnings as well as regular forecasts, upon vessel request.

The weather forecasts issued by the Hellenic National Meteorological Service (HNMS) are provided to navigators in the following ways:

INTERNET

Up to date forecasts are published on the official site of the HNMS. Sailing maps can be found on the pages of the meteo.gr, emy.gr as well the international websites windy.com, windfinder.com, weatheronline.co.uk etc.

TELEPHONE

Via the phone line of the Athens Marine Meteorological Centre of the Hellenic National Meteorological Service, one can obtain a forecast directly from the forecaster on duty for the sea area that one is interested in, available for the public 7:30 - 14:30, by dialing 210 9699171. General weather forecasts are obtained from a pre-recorded message (in Greek) of the National Telecommunications Organisation of Greece (OTE), by dialing 14944.

VHF/OLYMPIA RADIO

VHF channel 16 broadcasts Gale Warnings as well as regular forecasts, upon vessel request.

OLYMPIA RADIO broadcasts pre-recorded Weather and Sea bulletins in Greek and English according to the following table:

Sea Area VHF Channels for WX (Weather) UTC 0600, 1000, 1600, 2200

Aegean NW 23, 60

Aegean NE 82, 85

Aegean Central 01, 25, 85

Aegean SW 04, 85

Aegean SE 23, 63

Cretan Sea 04, 27, 83, 85

Ionian Sea 02, 27, 83, 85

Sea Area VHF Channels for TTT (Sea Bulletins) UTC 0500, 1100, 1730, 2330

Aegean NW 23, 60

Aegean NE 82, 85

Aegean Central 01, 25

Aegean SW 04, 85

Aegean SE 63

Cretan Sea 27, 83, 85

Ionian Sea 02, 27, 83

NAVTEXT SYSTEM TRANSMISSION

Weather and navigation forecasts issued by the HNMS, together with any Hydrographic Service announcements, and any announcement of the Ministry of Merchant Marine, are transmitted today via the modern NAVTEX method, at the international 518 kHz frequency. NAVTEX transmissions are transmitted daily to vessels via the coastal NAVTEX stations.