

1/31/61 Raw

CLYTON F. ANDERSON, N. DEX., CHAIRMAN	HENRY DWORSHAK, IOWA
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.	THOMAS H. MICHEL, CALIF.
ALAN WIBLE, NEB.	BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
JOHN A. DARRALL, CALIF.	WYMON ALLOTT, COLO.
FRANK CROUCH, IDAHO	MIRIAM L. FERGUSON, HAWAII
ERNEST BRIDGEMAN, ALASKA	JACK MILLER, IOWA
FRANK E. MORS, UTAH	
BREN E. LEHR, ARIZONA	
WENTON M. BURGESS, N. DAK.	
LEE METCALF, MONT.	
A. J. HICKS, WYOM.	

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

RICHARD L. GALLAGHAN, STAFF DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1961

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
U. S. COAST GUARD

January 30, 1961

V
7-1
7-0
7-3

Admiral Alfred Richmond
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
1300 K Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Richmond:

My attention has been called by Mr. Thomas B. Crowley of the Puget Sound-Alaska Van Lines to an unfortunate accident which occurred when one of the new barges owned by this company was recently destroyed in a gale in the Gulf of Alaska. Mr. Crowley tells me that he believes this loss could have been prevented if the Coast Guard Loran station at Ocean Cape was required to broadcast "Sea Lane" weather forecasts each hour, night and day, for vessels operating in the Gulf of Alaska.

I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know if this service can be made available as soon as possible.

I am sure you will agree that where lives and property are at stake every effort to protect them must be taken.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

ERNEST GRUENING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WEATHER BUREAU

January 30, 1961

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE: RO5-3

IN REPLY ADDRESS
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
WEATHER BUREAU
BOX 80
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Commander
17th Coast Guard District
U. S. Coast Guard
P. O. Box 2631
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The storm disasters encountered by tug and barge operations in the Gulf of Alaska during the past six months have prompted this office to reappraise the effectiveness of the Marine Forecast and Warning Program. Our evaluation disclosed that an urgent requirement exists for more frequent dissemination of marine weather service. It was further determined that supplementation of the broadcasts by the inclusion of local and nearby weather observations (wind direction, speed, present weather, and visibility) would augment the service to water-borne transportation frequenting Alaskan coastal areas.


In response to our request, the Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Alaska Communications System, has authorized their ACS coastal facilities to increase their scheduling to provide for three broadcasts daily; one in the morning, one near mid-day, and another in the evening. The Broadcast Bulletin will also include the weather observations. This augmented service will be implemented on February 15, 1961. Our Forecast Center in Anchorage recently began including storm centers in the morning forecast. Storms in the proximity, whether they are prognosticated to traverse the area of forecast responsibility during the period of validity or not, are positioned in the appropriate FX1 or FX2 Bulletin. This will serve to assist marine operators without forecast and warning service beyond a 24-hour period.

The gap in the gap of ACS coastal radio-telephone facilities in the eastern portion of the North Gulf Coast area continues to be an impediment to providing adequate dissemination of marine weather forecasts and warnings. Unconfirmed information indicates that tug operations, after passing Cape Fairweather, frequently encounter difficulty in picking up radio marine broadcasts from either Ketchikan or Juneau.

Should your Ocean Cape LORAN facility have capabilities to participate in the dissemination network, our Weather Station at Yakutat will provide the marine weather bulletin consisting of valid forecasts and warnings as well as local and nearby weather observations, in accordance with your proposed scheduling. Approval of this proposal to supplement the broadcast network, together with implementation of the additional and comprehensive ACS broadcasts, should assist materially in mitigating the exigencies to tug and barge operations in the Gulf of Alaska waters.

Please advise whether your Ocean Cape facilities will be in a position to implement scheduled marine weather broadcasts.

Very truly yours,


James H. Crockett
Acting Regional Administrative Officer

cc: F&SR Division CC

RECEIVED

FEB 6 1961

OPERATIONS

AIDS TO NAVIGATION DIV

OFU
H4/6
Ser

Commandant

Chief, Office of Operations

Broadcasts of Marine Weather Information from Loran Stations

Ref : (a) Ltr from Senator Ernest Gruening dtd 30 Jan 1961

1. From time to time Headquarters has received requests from private individuals and organizations and from the U. S. Weather Bureau that Loran Transmitting Stations in the Alaskan Area make routine schedules of radiomarine weather broadcasts.

3. It has been the policy that Loran Stations do not have the required facilities or personnel to meet a schedule of public broadcasts.

3. Statutory responsibility for the preparation and dissemination of weather information to the marine public is vested in the Chief, U. S. Weather Bureau by 15 USC 313. The Coast Guard cooperates when requested by the U. S. Weather Bureau on a not-to-interfere basis.

4. Weather broadcasts in the Alaskan Area are presently made by eleven stations. Coast Guard Primary Radio Station KETCHIKAN (IDWJ) is one of these. The remainder are U. S. Army stations of the Alaska Communications service. Fleet Weather Facility, U. S. Naval Station, Kodiak also makes weather broadcasts on CW frequencies.

5. A primary requisite for a station to make such broadcasts as requested by reference (a) is a rapid means of communication, preferably teletype, with the U. S. Weather Bureau Regional Office at Anchorage. A qualified radio operator and suitable equipment are plainly needed. Such facilities are not considered available at Loran-A stations in Alaska. The Chiefs of Aids to Navigation, Shore Units, Communications, Floating Units and Electronics Engineering Divisions have reiterated this and strongly oppose a radiomarine broadcast requirement on Loran Stations unless additional facilities and personnel are made available.

6. It is requested that the Commandant advise this office of the policy to be followed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. COAST GUARD
CGHQ-3584 (10-54)

DIRECTIVE CLEARANCE SHEET

DINSMORE:ds

2/2/61

J. A. ELLIOTT

(Fill in blocks as initialed - do not use for routing)

OFFICE OR DIVISION DESIGNATORS	Encl: (1)	Copy of ref (a)	OFU	OAN	EEE	OC	OSU	O	STAFF				
INITIALS OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS			EVC				75	805					
INTRA-OFFICE OR DIVISION INITIALS													

5. For the time being it is felt that the broadcast requirement can be met with no increase in personnel. It is anticipated, however, that the continuation of this service will at some time in the future be increased to such an extent that it will require the assignment of a Radioman for the Ocean Cape station.

G. I. LYNCH
By direction

Encl: (1) Weather Bureau ltr RO5-3 dtd 30 Jan 61 to Coal7CGD

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

OFU
HL
Ser 767

TO : Chief, Office of Operations

DATE: 27 MAR 1961

FROM : Chief, Floating Units Division

SUBJECT: Report of Inter-Division Conference on Radiomarine Broadcasts of weather by Coast Guard Facilities; 11 March 1961

1. On 11 March an Inter-Division Conference was held in the Communications Division Conference Room for the purpose of discussing and establishing a uniform policy with respect to the routine broadcasting of weather information to the marine public in cooperation with the U. S. Weather Bureau. This conference was attended as follows:

CAPT W. B. MILLINGTON, Chief, Aids to Navigation Division
CAPT R. F. REA, Chief, Communications Division
CAPT E. V. CARLSON, Chief, Floating Units Division
CAPT L. E. BRUNNER, Chief Electronics Engineering Division
LCDR K. N. LANGENBECK, Communications Division
LCDR G. F. HEMPTON, Communications Division
LCDR R. P. DINSMORE, Floating Units Division

2. The matter of an increasing number of requests for Coast Guard broadcasts was discussed. This includes the Loran Stations in Alaska and in particular the Ocean Cape LTS of which several congressional and private inquires are pending. It was noted that a total of ten Coast Guard stations and the Campeche Patrol vessel presently make regular, routine voice weather broadcasts. Nine of these ten stations are either primary or secondary radio stations; all have teletype communications and all but one have radiomen assigned. Surveys have shown that almost all Coast Guard broadcasts are used within the Coast Guard since the broadcasts are made on District working frequencies. The vast majority of the voice weather information received by the marine public is from "marine operator" broadcasts.

3. It was agreed that to make Coast Guard Broadcasts more effective the use of 2670 Kcs as a common broadcast frequency is considered expeditious. This is being implemented by the issuance of ALDIST 18.

4. It was agreed that Loran Stations as presently constituted do not have the facilities or personnel to meet the added workload or standards required for a program of public service broadcasts. It was further agreed that Loran Stations should not assume such an assignment unless the required additional facilities and personnel are provided prior to the inauguration of the broadcasts.

5. It was agreed to establish, subject to the approval of the Commandant, a uniform policy wherein certain basic requirements must be met before the Coast Guard agrees to the establishment of routine, scheduled, radiomarine broadcasts of weather information to the public. These requirements are outlined as follows:

APR 25 1961 approved

Chief, Office of Operations

- (a) The broadcast shall not impose additional, undue cost or workload to the detriment of the present mission.
- (b) A suitable and adequate means of communications must exist between the U. S. Weather Bureau Office issuing the forecast and the broadcast station. This shall be defined generally as a teletype or equivalent written system which can absorb the added load.
- (c) Voice broadcasts shall be made by a petty officer qualified as a radiotelephone operator.

6. In the case of Loran Stations, and, in particular the Ocean Cape LTS, to meet the requirements of (a) and (c) above, it is estimated that radio transmitting equipment and associated facilities will cost \$30,000 and that the enlisted personnel allowance must be increased by one. No such added facilities are being programmed, planned or recommended. ~~Further, since there is no~~

~~space available for such facilities at this station~~ Therefore, the requirement of (b) above cannot be met. Presumably the responsibility for establishing a suitable means of transmitting information between the U. S. Weather Bureau office and any new point of broadcast lies with the Weather Bureau.

7. It is requested that the inter-office agreements set forth in this memorandum be approved as uniform policy in the determination of future cooperation with the U. S. Weather Bureau.

E. V. Carlson
E. V. CARLSON

Referred for Approval:

W. B. Millington
W. B. MILLINGTON, CAPT, USCG Chief, OAN

R. F. Rea
R. F. REA, CAPT, USCG Chief, OC

L. F. Brunner
L. F. BRUNNER, CAPT, USCG Chief, EEE

APR 25 1981

d. approved

J. H. ...
Chief, Office of Operations

RECEIVED

SEP 2 1964

AIDS TO NAVIGATION
17th CG DISTRICT

o
3140
Serial 5051
1 September 1964

Mr. Mac A. Emerson
Regional Administrative Office
U. S. Weather Bureau
P. O. Box 80
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Emerson:

This acknowledges your letter RO5-1 of 20 August 1964 expressing concern that some communication difficulty may arise making it impossible to continue weather broadcasts from Ocean Cape Loran Station.

Some difficulty has been experienced with radio equipment at Ocean Cape, possibly due to the abnormal demands of the prolonged weather broadcasts. This is being investigated and meanwhile a second transceiver is being readied as a back-up. Also, one of the two cables serving the loran station has shown signs of deterioration recently. This is considered repairable since the cable is not old. In the event of cable failure it would be replaced; meanwhile weather information could be received by teletype utilizing the second cable, or that failing, weather broadcasts could be continued providing weather information was furnished by messenger.

Sincerely yours,

L. L. DAVIS
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Operations Division
Seventeenth Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

Copy to:
LORSTA Ocean Cape

Oan ✓
eee

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

COMMANDER
17th CG District
P. O. Box 2631
Juneau, Alaska



o
3140
Serial 5113
20 November 1964

From: Commander Seventeenth Coast Guard District
To: Commanding Officer, USCG Loran Station, Ocean Cape
Subj: Broadcast of Weather Storm Warnings and Special Advisories
Ref: (a) CCGD17(c) ltr H4, Serial 5650 dtd 29 NOV 1963

1. The weather broadcast program established by reference (a) is hereby expanded to include the broadcast of such storm warnings and special advisories as may be requested by U. S. Weather Bureau Station, Yakutat. Specific authorization for each broadcast is no longer required. The District Communication Plan will be amended accordingly.
2. Procedures established by reference (a) shall apply to these special broadcasts. It is anticipated that these special broadcasts will occur infrequently, due to the 4-times daily scheduled broadcast. Report number of unscheduled broadcasts in your monthly communication summary. Continue to report any difficulties experienced by separate correspondence.
3. Unless otherwise advised, the present broadcast program, as amended herein, will continue past the expiration of the 1-year trial period.

L. L. DAVIS
By direction

Copy to:
USWEABUR Anchorage
USWEABUR Yakutat
USWEABUR Juneau

oan



RECEIVED

NOV 20 1964

AIDS TO NAVIGATION
17th CG DISTRICT

Chief, Engineering Division

20 November 1964

Chief, Operations Division

Ocean Cape Radio Transmitters

Ref : (a) Ocean Cape ltr 3140 dtd 2 OCT 1964

1. Ocean Cape has been transmitting weather broadcasts since December 1963 on a one year trial basis. By reference (a) Ocean Cape reported maintenance problems, the implication being that the broadcasts are responsible for excessive down time and resulting extra workload.
2. A copy of reference (a) was previously furnished eee, and that branch has investigated the possible ill-effects of extended broadcasts.
3. Request you advise concerning the transmitter problems at Ocean Cape, as may relate to successful continuation of broadcasts with present equipment and personnel.

L. L. DAVIS

Copy to:
oan
eee

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1964

AIDS TO NAVIGATION
17th CG DISTRICT

o
3140
Serial 5119
27 November 1964

From: Commander Seventeenth Coast Guard District
To: Commandant (O)

Subj: Weather Broadcasts from Ocean Cape Loran Station

Ref: (a) Comdt (OSR-2) ltr A6/H4 dtd 22 OCT 1964

1. Reference (a) authorized subject broadcasts on a one-year trial basis. Broadcasts commenced on 3 December 1963, and have proven very beneficial to marine interests. Authority is requested to continue broadcasts from Ocean Cape on a permanent basis.

L. L. DAVIS
By direction

0an
eee 

OSR-2

3140

20 DEC 1964

From: Commandant
To: Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District (o)
Subj: Weather Information Broadcast from Ocean Cape LORAN Station
Ref: (a) OCGDL7(o) ltr file 3140 Serial 5119 of 27 Nov 1964
(b) OCGDL7(o) ltr file 44/84 Serial 5504 of 23 Aug 1963

1. Reference (a) requested authority to continue subject broadcasts from Ocean Cape LORAN Station. Ocean Cape LORAN Station is hereby designated as a radiotelephone weather broadcast station. You are authorized to continue the subject broadcasts on a permanent basis utilizing the phone patch method of broadcast, as outlined in paragraph 4 of reference (b). You should insure that proper radiotelephone procedure is used by Weather Bureau personnel making the broadcast.

W. W. CHILDRESS
Chief, Office of Operations

FAN *Mc...*