



POLISH MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE

MRCC Gdynia

PLAN FOR C-OPERATION BETWEEN PASSENGER SHIPS  
AND SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES IN THE EVENT OF  
AN EMERGENCY

according to

SOLAS, chapter V, regulations 7.3

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### Introduction

The preparation of a SAR co-operation plan is required under Chapter V, Section 7.3 of the SOLAS Convention: Passenger ships, to which chapter I applies, shall have on board a plan for co-operation with appropriate search and rescue services in event of an emergency. The plan shall be developed in co-operation between the ship, the company (ship-owner) as defined in regulation IX/1, and the search and rescue services. The plan shall include provisions for periodic exercises to be undertaken to test its effectiveness.

The plan shall be developed based on the guidelines developed by the Organisation (IMO). A SAR co-operation plan must be developed by the ship, ship-owner and the SAR (search and rescue) services in accordance with the guidelines of the International Maritime Organization IMO (MSC / Circ. 1079 / Rev. 1 with appendices). The aim of SAR cooperation planning is to enhance mutual understanding between a ship, the ship-owner and SAR services so that in the event of an emergency, all three parties will be able to work together efficiently. The information included in the plan must be readily available and up to date.

### Description of a SAR Co-operation Plan

Further instructions on the development of a SAR co-operation plan is provided in the Maritime Rescue Instructions and on the web site of the Joint Rescue Cooperation Center, “hovedredningscentralen.no”, On the same web site there is more SAR related information available.

The SAR cooperation plans are to enhance mutual understanding between a ship, the company and the SAR services so that in the event of an emergency, all three parties will be able to work together efficiently. All relevant contact details are to be known to the three parties and to be kept up to date.

A SAR co-operation plan shall consist of six parts that contain information on the ship-owner (Part 1), ships (Part 2), SAR services (Parts 3 and 4), media relations (Part 5) and periodic exercises (Part 6).

Passenger vessels on fixed routes through the Polish MSRR shall submit their SAR cooperation plans to [mrcc@sar.gov.pl](mailto:mrcc@sar.gov.pl).

### Version, updates and corrections

Version	Date	Description of changes	status

Requests for updates and notifications of errors can be sent to: [mrcc@sar.gov.pl](mailto:mrcc@sar.gov.pl)

## Part III

### 3.1 POLISH SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION

Maritime Search and Rescue Service in Poland is organized according to obligations towards the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979 (Hamburg).

Co-ordinates of the SRR :

$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 27' 28,03''$  N  $\lambda = 019^{\circ} 38' 24,05''$  E

$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 36' 14,03''$  N  $\lambda = 019^{\circ} 24' 15,02''$  E;

$\varphi = 55^{\circ} 51' 00,00''$  N  $\lambda = 017^{\circ} 33' 00,00''$  E;

$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 55' 00,00''$  N  $\lambda = 015^{\circ} 52' 00,00''$  E;

$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 55' 00,00''$  N  $\lambda = 015^{\circ} 08' 07,00''$  E – from this point an arc of a circle with a radius of 30 km drawn from ARP Rone ( $\varphi = 55^{\circ} 04' 04''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 44' 48''$  E) to the point 6;

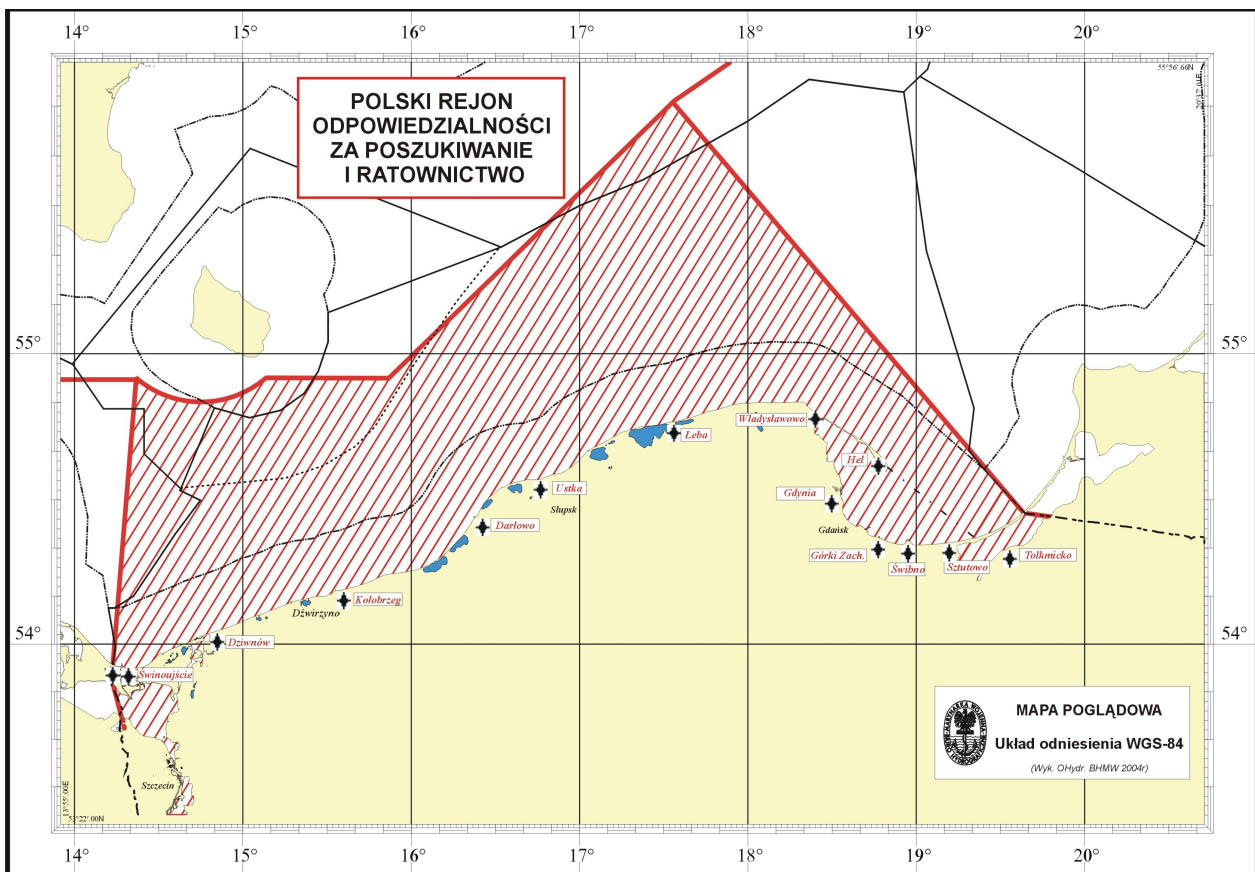
$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 55' 00,00''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 21' 27,00''$  E

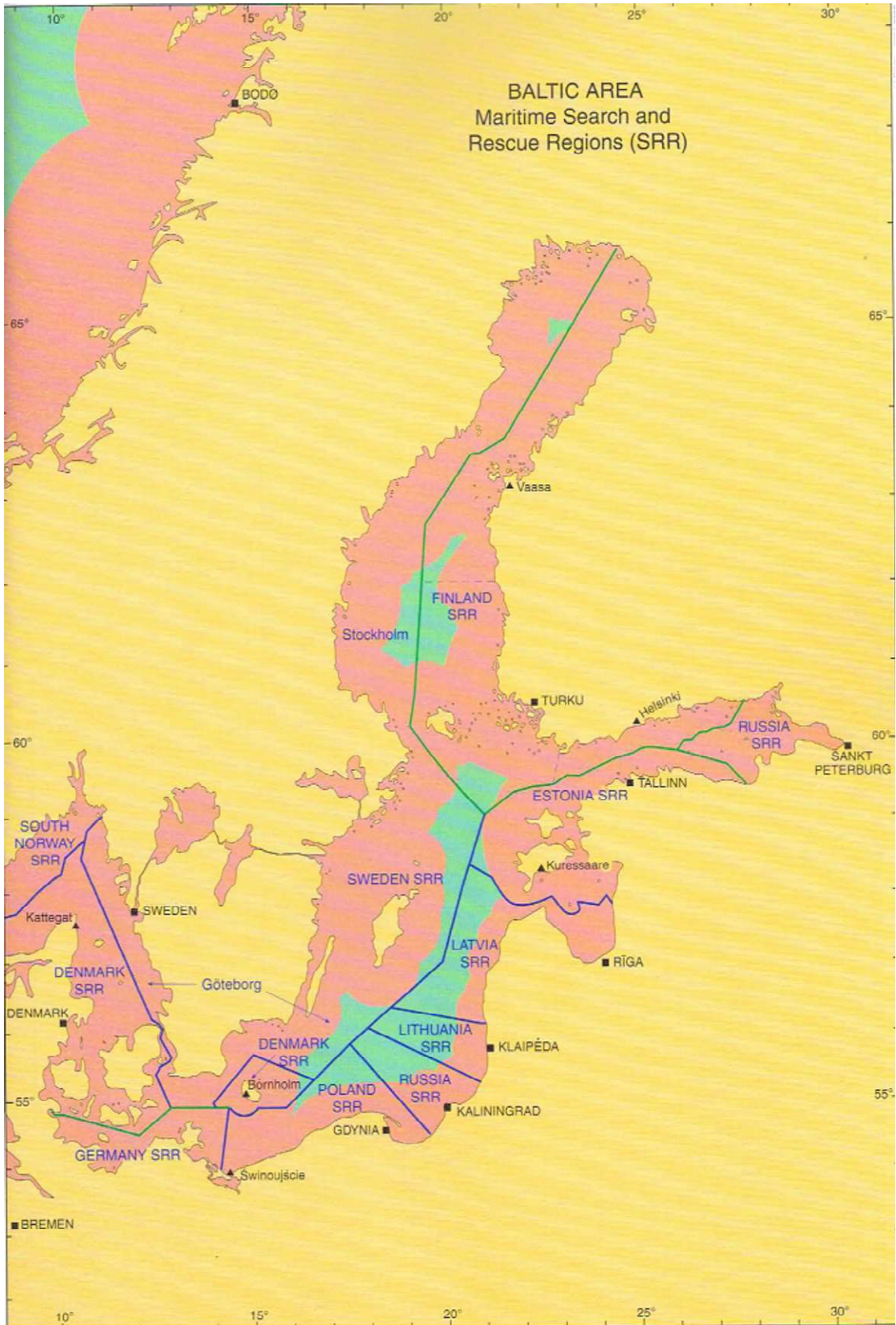
$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 07' 38,00''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 15' 17,00''$  E

$\varphi = 54^{\circ} 07' 34,00''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 12' 05,00''$  E

$\varphi = 53^{\circ} 59' 16,00''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 14' 32,00''$  E

$\varphi = 53^{\circ} 55' 40,00''$  N  $\lambda = 014^{\circ} 13' 34,00''$  E





### **3.2 SAR MISSION CO-ORDINATION (SMC)**

#### Definition

Each SAR operation is carried out under the guidance of and SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC). This function exists only for the duration of a specific SAR incident and is normally performed by the RCC chief or designee. For complex cases or those of long duration, the SMC usually has an assisting team.

#### Summary of functions

The SMC plans the search and rescue operation and coordinates the transit of SAR facilities to the scene. He's duties include:

- to obtain and evaluate all data on the emergency;
- to ascertain the type of emergency equipment carried by the missing or distress craft;
- to develop the search and rescue action plan;
- to designate the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC);
- to dispatch SAR units and/or SAR facilities;
- to designate on-scene communication frequencies;
- to co-ordinate the operation with adjacent RCCs;
- to release SAR facilities when assisting is no longer required;
- the termination or suspension of the search.

### **3.3 ON-SCENE CO-ORDINATION (OSC)**

#### Definition

When two or more SAR facilities are working together on the same mission, there is sometimes an advantage if one person is assigned to co-ordinate the activities of all participating units. The SMC designates this on-scene co-ordinator (OSC), who may be the person in charge of a SAR unit, ship or aircraft participating in search, or someone at another nearby facility in a position to handle OSC duties. The person in charge of the first SAR facility to arrive at the scene will normally assume the function of OSC until the SMC directs that the person be relieved. Conceivably, the OSC may have to assume SMC duties and actually plan the SAR mission if the OSC becomes aware of a distress situation directly and communications cannot be established with an RCC.

#### Selection criteria

The OSC should be the most capable person available, taking into consideration SAR training, communications capabilities, and the length of time that the unit with OSC aboard can stay in the operation area.

#### Summary of functions

Duties which the SMC may assign to the OSC (depending on needs and qualification) include any of the following:

- to assume operational co-ordination of all SAR facilities on-scene;
- to receive the SAR action plan from the SMC;
- to modify the plan based on prevailing environmental conditions and keeping the SMC advised of any changes to the plan;
- to provide relevant information to the other SAR facilities;
- to implement the SAR action plan;
- to monitor the performance of other units participating in the mission;

- to make consolidated reports (SITREP) back to the SMC

## PART IV

### SAR - FACILITIES

#### 4.1. RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER

MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER (MRCC) Gdynia	
Telephone:	+48586205551 +48586216811 +48505050971
fax	+48586607640
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:polratok.1@sar.gov.pl">polratok.1@sar.gov.pl</a> mrcc@sar.gov.pl
Postal address	10 Hryniewickiego Str. 81-340 Gdynia Poland PO BOX 375
Hrs of service	H - 24
MARITIME RESCUE SUB-CENTER (MRSC) – Świnoujście	
Telephone:	+48913215929 +48913214947 +48505050969
fax	+48913216042
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:polratok.2@sar.gov.pl">polratok.2@sar.gov.pl</a>
Postal address	1 Nabrzeże Władysława IV Str. 72-600 Świnoujście Poland
Hrs of service	H - 24

## 4.2 RADIOCOMMUNICATION

Notification of emergency shall be direct through approved maritime communications systems.

A permanent 24 hrs radio listening watch of distress frequencies is carried out by Polish CRS Polish Rescue Radio on radiofrequencies:

A1: VHF ch.16 and DSC ch. 70

A2: DSC 2187,5 kHz

VHF Channel 11 and Channel 74 DSC (international declared internal working channels for SAR units of the Polish Search and Rescue Service) is the operational communication system along the whole POLISH coast for Polish SAR Service

Ships may use public or mobile telephone to contact MRCC, keeping in mind that no one else but the two points can hear your message, which is a disadvantage in distress alerting.

When making an alert or notification, the following information can be requested by the MRCC:

- Position
- Identity of the vessel (name, call sign, IMO nr, MMSI)
- Number of persons on board
- Number of persons injured, in the water, missing or dead.
- Specific information related to the incident (damage ...)
- Situation and assessment of situation
- Type of assistance needed
- Measures taken by the ship
- All relevant information as specified in IMO resolution A.851(20)
- Point of contact to find more information about dangerous substances on board
- Length and breadth over all
- Flag of the vessel
- Last port of call
- Next port of call
- Intended route
- Weather conditions on-scene

## 4.3 RESCUE UNITS

### SURFACE UNITS

Class/quantity	Size LxB [m}	Readiness [min]	Crew	Speed [knots]	Endurance	Survivor capacity	Radio communications
SAR 3000 (3)	36,9x8,1	Up to 15	6	24	3 days	150	GMDSS A1& A2
SAR 1500 (7)	15,2x5,4	Up to 15	4	30	6 hours	70	GMDSS A1& A2
RIB (8)	6	Up to 30	3	36	6 hours	12	VHF
RIB (1)	9	Up to 15	3	50	6 hours	17	VHF

All rescue vessels are equipped with medical first aid equipment, fire-fighting appliance, bilge pumps

## AIRBORNE UNITS

Class	Type	Base	Readiness	Radius of action [km]	Max. transit speed [km/h]	Endurance	Survivor capacity	SAR equipment	Radio communication
H/C-M	W3RM	Gdynia	Up to 20 min	180	222	3,5 hours	8	Winch, liferaft, flares, medical equipment	VHF/UHF
H/C-H	Mi 14 PŁR	Darłowo	Up to 20 min	210	200	4,5 hours	19	Winch, liferaft, flares, medical equipment	VHF/UHF
W/C	AN-28 B1-R	Cewice	Up to 60 min	477	300	3,3 hours	-	Liferaft, flares, survivors detection system	VHF/UKF/FM

### ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE SAR FACILITIES

Polish Maritime Search and Rescue Service strictly cooperates with Polish Navy, Border Guard, Fire Brigade, Police ( units of this organization are on permanent readiness and available as additional SAR facilities) and other organization which can help to led SAR mission according to the Polish Maritime SAR Plan.

All suitable vessels and facilities in the vicinity of the incident

#### 4.4 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

For the communication between SMC (MRCC) and OSC or unit :

A1 -VHF Ch 11 or 16 – via CRS Polish Rescue Radio or directly with MRCC

A2 – 2182 kHz via CRS Polish Rescue Radio

On scene surface working frequencies:

VHF Ch: 06, 10, 11 or 16

Additional means of communication (satellite, fax, e-mail, etc) may be used to pass detailed information such as search plans. The SAR SITUATION REPORT (SITREP see IAMSAR Manual) is a useful guide and an internationally accepted format for efficient communication and should be used when practicable.

#### 4.5 SEARCH PLANNING

MRCC Gdynia will provide SAR units with search areas and sub-areas, suggested search patterns, track spacings, etc. SAR units should provide the SMC with as much information as possible relating to search condition ( e.g. weather and sea conditions on scene, SAR units capabilities, estimates of search quality). All sightings or findings (e.g. of wreckage possibly emanating from the casualty) must be reported to the MRCC.

#### 4.6 MEDICAL ADVICE / ASSISTANCE

**TMAS:** Uniwersyteckie Centrum Medycyny Morskiej i Tropikalnej

Tel: +48 58 69 98 460

Fax:+48 58 69 98 460

e--mail: [tmas@ucmmit.gdynia.pl](mailto:tmas@ucmmit.gdynia.pl)



Request for medical advice can be made via CRS Rescue Radio. Request for medical assistance will be dealt with MRCC Gdynia or MRSC Świnoujście (usually after medical advice has been taken).

Information required will include:

- identity of the vessel;
- vessel's last and next port;
- name, sex and age of patient;
- symptoms, condition and medical history;
- treatment already undertaken;
- medication available on board.

However, notification should not be delayed even if all the information is not immediately available. Assistance provided will depend on the circumstances, but may include the medical evacuation of the patient(s) by surface units or helicopter.

#### **4.7 FIREFIGHTING, SALVAGE, OIL POLLUTION, CHEMICAL HAZARDS, et..**

Polish Fire Fighting Service are not obliged to respond to incidents at open sea, but may do so. Whether firefighting assistance can be obtained, and what form that assistance will take depends upon the circumstances of the incident. Early requests for assistance in the Polish SRR must be made to the MRCC Gdynia or MRSC Świnoujście.

Polish Maritime Search and Rescue Service also carries out tasks related to combating sea pollution in Polish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

MRCC Gdynia is an emergency contact point and coordinates mission related to combating sea pollution in EEZ.

#### **4.8 SHORE RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS**

Overall co-ordination of shore reception arrangements is under the responsibility of inland Emergency Response Centers. This includes procuring and prioritizing resources such as temporary accommodation, food supply and rest centers, medical treatment and transport to hospital, etc..

Contact with the inland Emergency Response Centers can be made via MRCC Gdynia.

#### **4.9 INFORMATION NEXT-OF-KIN**

The task of informing next-of-kin remains with the company's emergency response organization of the ship in distress. A close liaison should be established with all parties involved, including other authorities and the MRCC Gdynia.

#### **4.10 SUSPENSION / TERMINATION OF SAR ACTION**

The decision to terminate SAR action rests with the SMC but will only be taken when there is no longer any probability of survival of missing persons, after consideration of all available information and consultation with the authorities involved.

SAR action may also be temporarily suspended by the SMC, after due consideration and consultation: for example, in darkness when no technical detection aids are available or suitable, or in bad weather when continuation would place SAR facilities at undue risk.

#### **4.11 MARITIME DISASTER**

Responsibility for coordination and conduct of search and rescue operations at sea during maritime disaster remains in Polish Maritime Search and Rescue Service.

### **PART V**

## **MEDIA RELATIONS**

The public should be informed about SAR operations, within the limits of confidentiality. It is important that information reaching the public is factual and complete, ensuring fewer time consuming request from news media and reduction in inaccurate public speculation about SAR mission. MRCC Gdynia will provide authorities with all SAR relevant information. Media coverage has to be agreed among the company's public relations department, the spokesman of the Polish Search and Rescue Service and other authorities individually for each incident.

## **PART VI**

### **PERIODIC EXERCISE**

To test the effectiveness of the plan, periodic exercises will take place in agreement between SAR services, the responsible administration and the Company.

Arrangements for life exercises should be made in cooperation with MRCC Gdynia or MRSC Świnoujście.

Type of exercises:

- Communication / coordination exercises (to be requested 2 days in advance)
- Tabletop exercises (to be requested 2 weeks in advance)
- Live exercises, (if small 2 weeks, if full scale 2 months in advance)

Passenger vessels on fixed routes through the Polish SRR will do an exercise with MRCC Gdynia or MRSC Świnoujście at least once a year.

Vessels on variable routes are also welcome to make their requests.

For requests and planning, contact [polratok.1@sar.gov.pl](mailto:polratok.1@sar.gov.pl) or [polratok.2@sar.gov.pl](mailto:polratok.2@sar.gov.pl).