

Marine meteorological services for ships - Internet meteorological messages

Written by Wu Chung-wai June 2012

Cruising on high seas, using internet for business and communication becomes more and more popular in the past several years. The “Opinion survey on marine meteorological services” conducted by the Hong Kong Observatory in 2011 shows that there has been a gradual increase in the percentage of ships equipped with internet on board from around 10% in 2007 to almost 30% in 2011 (Figure 1).

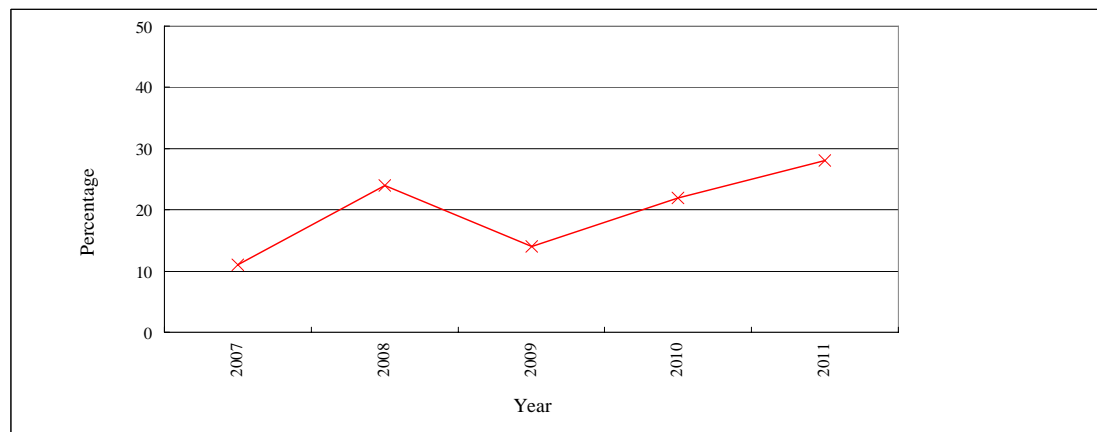


Figure 1 Percentage of ships with internet access (from annual opinion survey conducted by the Observatory on marine meteorological services from 2007 to 2011)

With internet access on board, shipmaster can obtain the Marine Weather Forecast (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/wxinfo/currwx/fmar.htm>), Tropical Cyclone Warning for Shipping (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/wxinfo/currwx/tcswarn.htm>) and GMDSS meteorological message (<http://weather.gmdss.org/XI.html>) issued by the Hong Kong Observatory through the Observatory's internet website instead of through the NAVTEX and Inmarsat satellite data telecommunication system.

Furthermore, the shipmasters on board can obtain more valuable marine meteorological information which are in graphical format through internet such as satellite and weather radar imageries, weather charts, weather forecasts and warnings at various places over the world. To facilitate access to such information, the Observatory has developed and launched the "Weather Information for the Marine Community" website (http://www.hko.gov.hk/wservice/tsheet/pms/mariners_e.htm) in March this year to provide the portal for the marine community, including the shipmasters on board. Shipmasters are welcome to visit the website, as a one-stop shop, to access relevant information.



Meteorological messages received via internet in a Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ship

Weather Information for the Marine Community
(Beta Version)

Track and Positions of Tropical Cyclone | e-Bulletin for the Marine Community | Port Meteorological Services | Useful Links

Quick Links

Marine Forecast Updated at 09:00 HKT 16/04/2012

WARNING :
NO WARNING.

GENERAL SITUATION AT 152100 UTC:
TROUGH 24N 105E 22N 110E 26N 119E 26N 125E S SLOWLY.

The front page of "Weather Information for the Marine Community" website
(http://www.hko.gov.hk/wservice/tsheet/pms/mariners_e.htm)