

# Description of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs)

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## Definitions

**Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) :**  
Centre responsible for ensuring the efficient organisation of search and rescue services and coordinating search and rescue operations in a Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

**Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre (MRSC) :**  
Centre subordinate to a Maritimes Rescue Coordination Centre and complementary to the latter in accordance with the specific provisions of the responsible authorities.



Coordination with the Air Rescue Coordination Centres is encouraged. If possible, physically combine the two into a **Joint Air/Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Joint RCC)**.

## Cooperation and installation

- **The Parties establish**, individually or in cooperation with other States, **rescue coordination centres** for their search and rescue services and such **rescue sub-centres** as they deem appropriate.
- **Coordination with the Air Rescue Coordination Centres is encouraged.** If possible, physically combine the two into a Joint Air/Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Joint RCC).
- The MRCC may work alongside other maritime operational centres (traffic surveillance, fisheries surveillance, navigational information broadcasting) or even use the same personnel.
- Premises and facilities should be ideally designed in such a way that they easily used to cope with major events.



# Creation of MRCCs and MRSCs



- An RCC must demonstrate essential capabilities before being recognised as being in charge of an SRR and listed in the IMO SAR Global Plan.



- The essential capabilities required and the desirable capabilities are formalised in the IAMSAR Vol. II manual.

## Essential capabilities required from a MRCC

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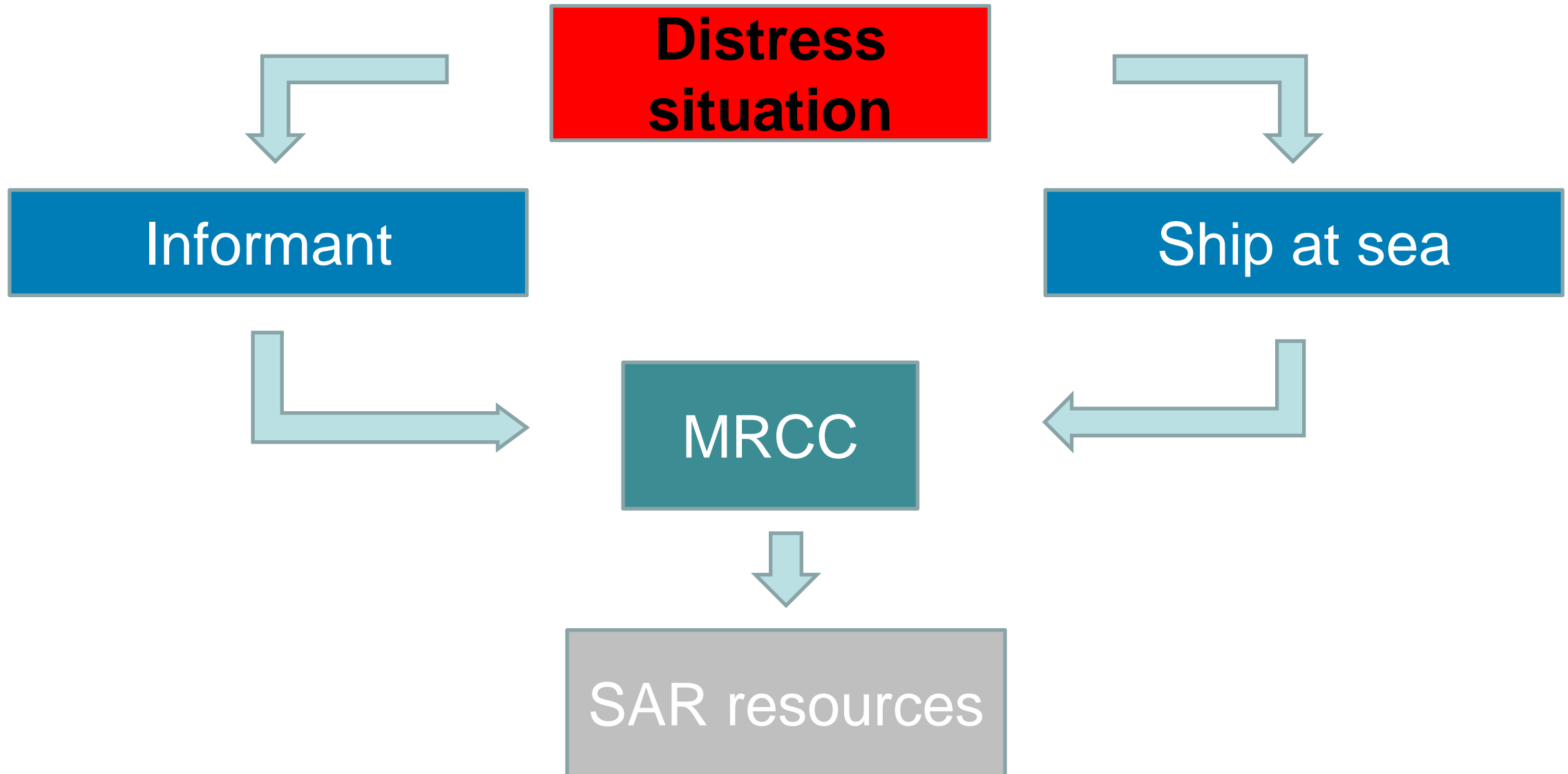
- 24-hours availability
- Trained persons
- Persons with a working knowledge of English
- Charts applying to the SRR
- Means of plotting
- Ability to receive distress alerts
- Ability to communicate immediately with :
  - Air traffic control centres and RCCs
  - Direction-finding stations, Coast radio stations
- Rapid and reliable communications with :
  - parent agencies of SRUs
  - adjacent RCCs
  - designated meteorological services
  - employed SRUs
  - postes d'alertes
- Plans d'opérations
- Ability to coordinate medical assistance

## Desirable capabilities of an MRCC

- Wall chart depicting the SRR, SRSs and neighbouring SRRs, SAR resources
- Computer resources
- Databases
- Vessel tracking information (AIS, LRIT, VMS)



**MRCC Dublin (Ireland)**



Each **SAR operation is conducted under the direction and supervision of an SMC**, who leads a watch team.

Action in 4 stages: **Gathering information / Developing an action plan / Activating appropriate resources / Coordinating the response**

**When two or more SAR units are deployed**, it is sometimes an advantage to designate one person to coordinate the activities of all the units participating in the operation. In this case, the SMC appoints an on-scene coordinator (OSC).

If aircrafts are involved, **flight safety** and operational efficiency is ensured by **the Aircraft Coordinator (ACO)**.





# SAR resources used by MRCCs (ref. IAMSAR Manual Volume 1 Appendix C)

## Aircrafts



## Vessels



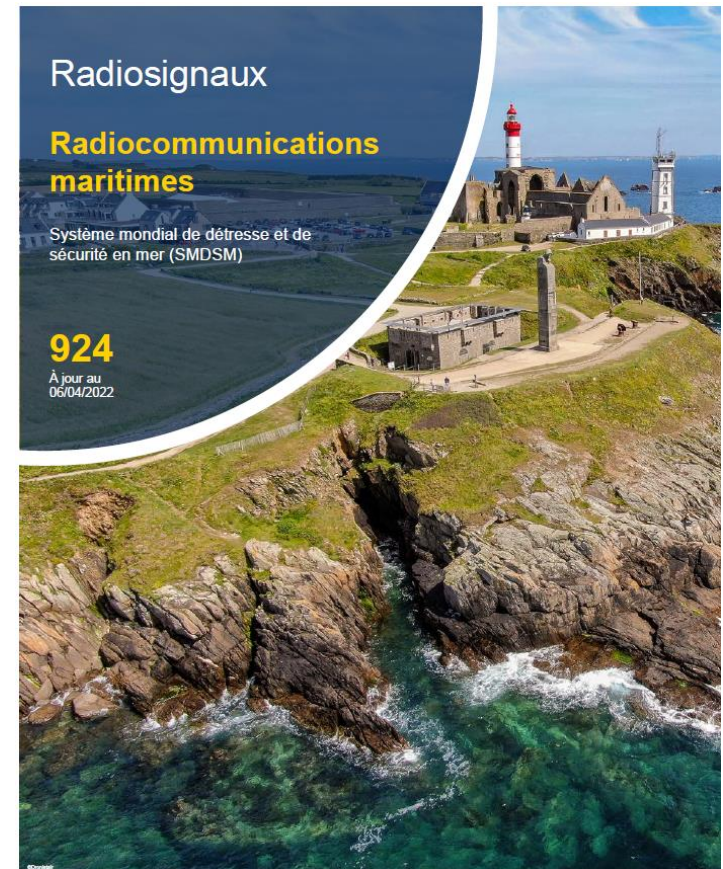
## Land resources



# Means of communication

GMDSS resources are listed in the Nautical publications and the Masterplan included in GISIS. Equipment varies from centre to centre

Açores (Portugal)				
<b>Ponta Delgada MRCC</b>				37° 44' N — 25° 40' W
TF	+351	296 28 17 77 (urgences)		112
TF (mobile)	+351	917 777 461		
Fax	+351	211 93 85 18		
Inmarsat-B	+870	776600188		
Inmarsat-C	+580	426300065		
Mél		<a href="mailto:mrcc.delgada@marinha.pt">mrcc.delgada@marinha.pt</a>		
Web		<a href="https://www.marinha.pt/pt/servicos/informacao-maritima/Paginas/emergencia-mar.aspx">https://www.marinha.pt/pt/servicos/informacao-maritima/Paginas/emergencia-mar.aspx</a>		
MMSI		002040100		
Indicatif d'appel		Delgada MRCC		
Radiocommunications		VHF, VHF ASN	MF, MF ASN	
Afrique du Sud				
<b>Cape Town MRCC</b>				33° 53' S — 18° 36' E
TF	+27	219 38 33 10	219 38 33 00	
Fax	+27	219 38 33 19		
Inmarsat Fleet Safety	+873	764 8168 55 - TF	764 8168 56 - Données	
	+871	764 8168 58 - TF	764 8168 59 - Données	
Mél		<a href="mailto:mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za">mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za</a>		
Web		<a href="http://www.samsa.org.za">www.samsa.org.za</a>		
Alaska (États-Unis)				
<b>Anchorage Coast Guard</b>				61° 13' N — 149° 53' W
TF	+1	90 74 28 41 00 (urgences)		90 74 28 42 00
Fax	+1	90 74 28 41 14		
Mél		<a href="mailto:sector.anchorage@uscg.mil">sector.anchorage@uscg.mil</a>		
		<a href="mailto:D17-PF-ANC-Sector-Watch@uscg.mil">D17-PF-ANC-Sector-Watch@uscg.mil</a>		
Web		<a href="http://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-17/17th-District-Units/Sector-Anchorage/">http://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-17/17th-District-Units/Sector-Anchorage/</a>		
MMSI		003660894		
Radiocommunications		VHF		



## MRCCs personnel training

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- Watchkeepers should normally receive formal SAR training and be fully qualified in SAR incident analysis, search planning and SAR operations management.
- IAMSAR lists the knowledge to be acquired by personnel in terms of organisation, procedures, administration and information.
- **For SMCs, the knowledge required is considerable**
- The IMO has published two Model Courses about MRCC/MRSC personnel:
  - Model course 3.13 - SAR Administration (IAMSAR Manual Volume I)
  - Model course 3.14 –de SAR Mission Coordinator (IAMSAR Manual Volume II)
- The problem of setting up training courses (hence the importance of international cooperation)



# 20-hour online course set up by EMSA for future CMSs

## COURSE CONTENT



- SAR framework in terms of procedures related with general planning within the SAR organisation;
- SAR agreements identifying their strength point and cooperation procedures;
- European Legislation dealing with international cooperation within European countries;
- Coordinating a SAR activity, preparation and actions to be performed to set up and run a maritime SAR service;
- Standard terminology and phraseology in SAR messages;
- Radio systems used in maritime SAR communications ;
- Radar and satellite communications in maritime SAR operations;
- Activities to perform in the different maritime SAR phases;
- Reply to a SAR alert;
- Steps to prepare for a possible maritime SAR operation;
- Continuous planning and flow of information;
- Information in each specific maritime SAR emergency event;
- Potential available resources for the maritime SAR operations;
- Legal limitations and responsibilities in the use of maritime SAR resources;
- Risks for the SAR resources in use and how to mitigate them;
- Actions to be performed closing or suspending a maritime SAR operation;
- Maritime non-SAR operation;
- Formatting and standards in each layer of communication;
- Different layers of communication in closing or suspending a SAR or non-SAR operation.

# Illustration of the evolution of an MRCC's facilities – MRCC FALMOUTH (UK)



1996



2014

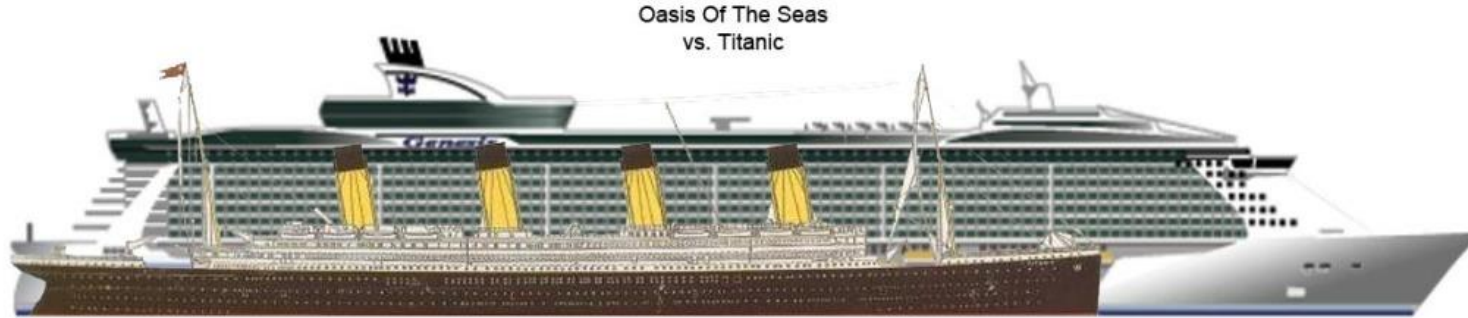
# HM Coastguard National Maritime Operations Centre Fareham, Hampshire

- Coordinates the activities of 10 MRCCs or MRSCs
- Staff 100 people
- 35 control desks in teams with 3 command posts and 1 general command post
- 10 additional control desks can be activated in the event of a major event

+ training rooms (simulator)



# Thanks for you attention



TITANIC : 2500 pax + 890 crew members  
OASIS OF THE SEAS : 6 296 pax + 2 165 crew members  
ICON OF THE SEAS : 7 600 pax + 2 365 crew members

