LORAN TO BE TERMINATED

In accordance with the US Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act the US Coast Guard announced on 7th January that it will terminate the transmission of all US Loran-C signals effective from 2000Z on 8th February 2010. At that time, the US Loran-C signal will be unusable and permanently discontinued. It is understood that this termination does not affect US participation in the Russian, American or Canadian Loran-C chains. US participation in these chains will continue temporarily in accordance with international agreements.

In a precautionary notice on the USCG Navigation Center website under the heading Loran-C General Information the Coast Guard strongly urged mariners currently using Loran-C for navigation to shift to a GPS navigation system and become familiar with its operation as soon as possible. It emphasised that mariners will not be able to rely upon Loran-C for navigation after 8th February 2010.

USCG’S notice stated that Loran-C has, as a result of technological advancements in the last 20 years, become an antiquated system no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector of the nation’s security interests and is used only by a small percentage of the US population. The Coast Guard understands that Loran-C is still used by a small segment of the public and that those users will have to shift to GPS or other systems; however, continued use of limited resources to operate Loran-C is no longer prudent use of taxpayer funds and is not allowed under the 2010 Department of Home Security Appropriation Act.

This decision to cease transmission of the Loran-C signal reflects the President’s pledge to eliminate unnecessary Federal Programs.

USCG’s Navigation Center welcomes any comments or questions by way of its Contact Us page to be found on www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran