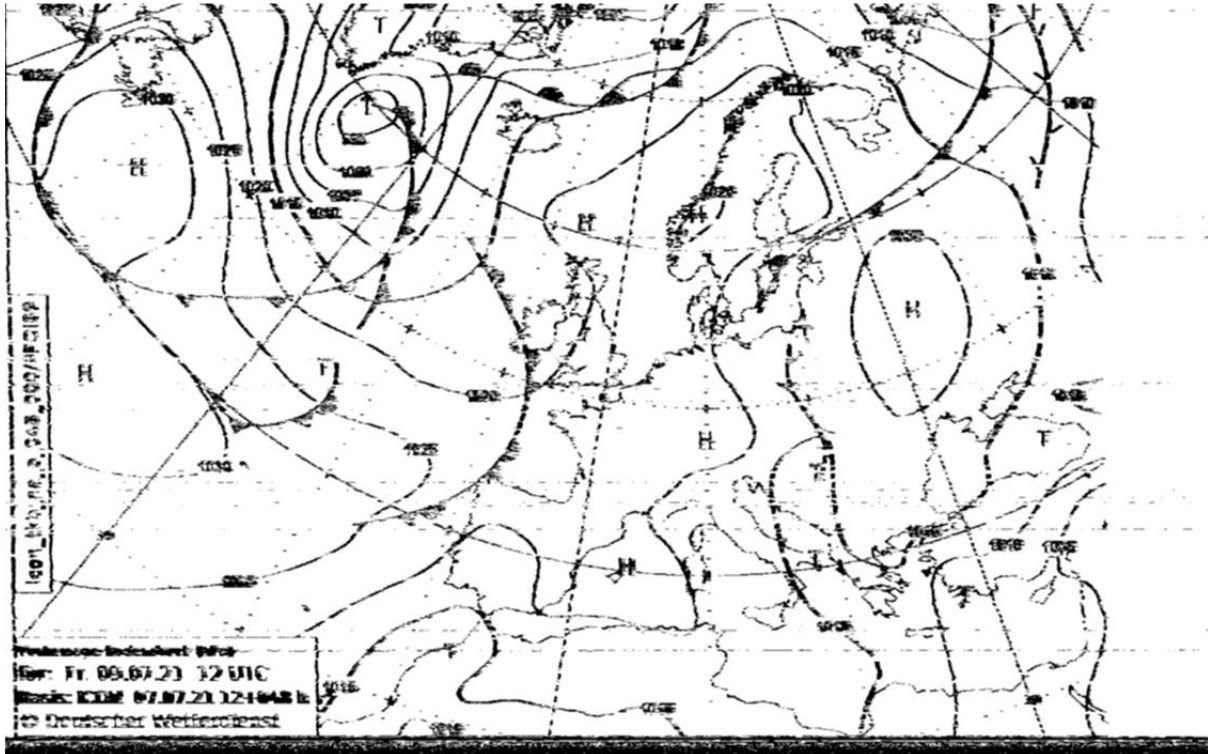# Software for decoding maritime modes other than voice or CW

Various different modes are used in maritime radio and I am providing some information on the various modes used and associated software for decoding.

Radio fax is used for the transmission of weather and ice charts that may be produced in a similar fashion to the telephone fax machine. A worldwide schedule for radio fax transmissions may be downloaded from www.weather.gov/media/owlie/rfax.pdf.

Example of a radio fax chart

Signals from the German weather service, DWD, are easy to receive in Europe and they transmit both radio fax and RTTY weather information. Their transmission schedule may be found at www.dwd.de/DE/fachnutzer/schifffahrt/funkausstrahlung/_node.html.

SOFTWARE:
An excellent piece of software for receiving these transmissions is Black Cat HF Weather Fax (https://blackcatsystems.com/software/hf_weather_fax.html).

SeaTTy will decode radio fax signals along with RTTY and navtex transmissions. Available from www.dxsoft.com/en/products/seatty/.

Multipsk, decodes many modes including navtex, RTTY DGPS etc. download from http://multipsk.fr/index_anglais.htm

YaND (Yet Another NAVTEX Decoder) Navtex decoder download from www.ndblist.info/datamodes.htm

Frisnit another navtex decoder from http://www.frisnit.com/navtex/?id=decoder

YaDD (Yet another DSC Decoder) for decoding Digital Selective Calling (DSC). Download from www.ndblist.info/datamodes.htm

DSC Decoder from COAA will decode DGPS, DSC and navtex signals. Download from http://www.coaa.co.uk/dscdecoder.htm

ShipPlotter Another COAA product from displaying AIS, Automatic Identification Signals, transmitted by ships when using your own receiver.

GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)
GMDSS Master Plan provides details on shore based facilities for GMDSS and may be downloaded from https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/WWNWS/Relevant%20MSI%20Publications%20and%20Documents/English/GMDSS_Circ23.pdf.