

JAPAN P&I NEWS

No.725-15/04/17

To the Members

Dear Sirs,

Measure to assure safe navigation during the peak season of drift-net fishing in the Inland Sea

The drift-net fishing season will start on 20th April throughout Seto Inland Sea in Japan. Inland Sea Pilots Association intends to implement safety measures in an effort to assure safe navigation.

We attach herewith a free translation of “Request for Cooperation” letter from Inland Sea Pilots Association. We hope this information would be of help to the vessels navigating the relevant area for the sake of their safe navigation and loss prevention.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

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=Free Translation=

I.S.P. Tech No.15-016

13th April, 2015

The Japanese Shipowners Association
The Japan Foreign Steam Ship Association

Re: Measures to assure safe navigation during the peak season of drift-net fishing
in the Inland Sea (Request for Cooperation)

Dear Sirs,

The season of drift-net fishing starts from 20th April. Every year, we have implemented safety measures to assure the safety of vessels under our pilotage and fishing boats alike.

Thanks to the cooperation from the vessels, shipping companies and related organizations, there have not been any serious accidents yet.

As you are aware, the drift-nets over 2,000 meters long are used in certain fishing areas. And especially in the area from Bisan Seto to Hiuchi Nada, there becomes particularly crowded with fishing boats in operation of drift-nets, making it difficult for the vessels to assume safe navigation not only inside but also outside the navigation route.

Therefore, we intend to implement the safety measures described on the attached paper, as was done last year, in an effort to assure safe navigation.

Shipowners are requested to settle any claims for drift-nets lodged by the fishermen utilizing the Shipmaster's statement etc. without involving the pilots, as the pilots could not issue any statements concerning damages for the nets during the period of the safety measures implementation.

We thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation and look forward to serving you better in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

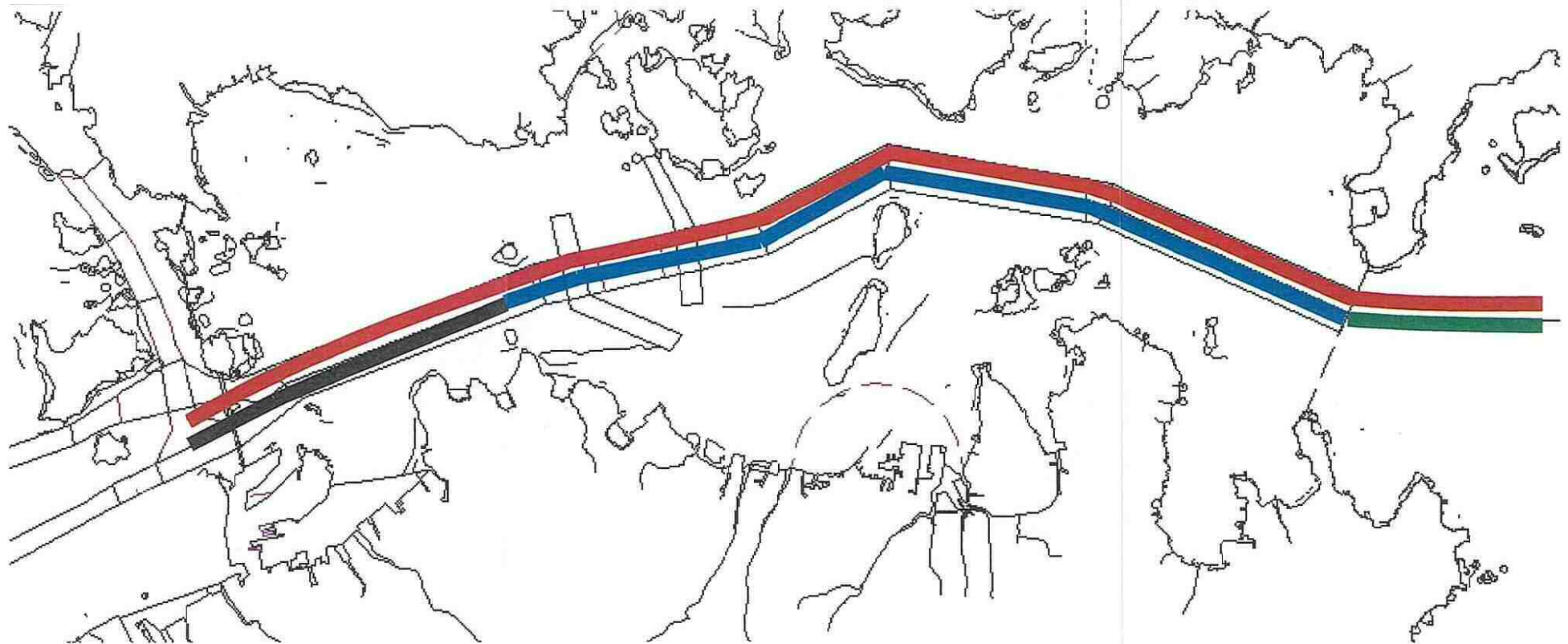
Capt. N. Yamada
President of Inland Sea Pilots Association

The Safety Measures during the Drift-net Fishing Season in 2015

	Area of the Safety Measures	Duration of the fishing operation	No fishing day	Safet Measures
Harima Nada	No.1 light buoy of the Harima Nada Traffic Rote ↓ No.7 light buoy of the Bisan Seto East Traffic Route	20th April ↓ 30th November	Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	(1) The vessels navigating with the pilots on board should pass this area by 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn) to avoid encountering the fishing operation. (2) However, when the vessels are compelled to navigate this area after 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn), the vessels should deploy escort boats for precaution from 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn) to sunrise on the following day. (3) The vessel should pass the area between No.7 light buoy of the Bisan Seto East Traffic Route and Ozuchi, Kozuchi island in 1 hour 15 mins. (4) "Autumn" means a period from 1st September to 31st November. (5) Thea area where the escort boats for precaution is as per attached sheet.
	No.7 light buoy of the Bisan Seto East Traffic Route ↓ Ozuchi, Kozuchi island		Sunday (after sunset) ↓ Monday (after sunrise)	
Bisan Seto	Ozuchi, Kozuchi island ↓ Crossing area with Mizushima Traffic Route	20th April ↓ 30th November	Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	(Reference) The fishing operation of a catch of Spanish mackerel: 20th April to 20th July 1st October to 30th November The fishing operation of a catch of pomfret: 1st June to 31st October
	Ozuchi, Kozuchi island ↓ Crossing area with Mizushima Traffic Route		Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	
Huchi Nada	Eastern area ↓ Mishima-Kawanoe port	20th April ↓ 30th November	Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	(1) Entering the ports Vessels should pass ES line or No.7 Light Buoy of Bingo after sunrise and arrive at outside of the ports by 18:00 hours. ①passing time of ES line: 20mins after departing Kurushima-kaiyo traffic route ②passing time of No.7 light buoy of Bingo: 20mins after departing Bisan seto Northern traffic route a) Vessels expected to reach the outside of the ports after 18:00 hours should pass ES line or No.7 Light Buoy of Bingo after sunrise on the following day by adjusting the pilot boarding time. b) During the period from autumn to winter, the vessels entering the port of Mishima-Kawanoe from the West in the evening should take a roundabout route via No. 2 Light Buoy of Bingo Nada to Nabeio because there are possibilities vessels encountering fishing nets even before
	Western area ↓ Mishima-Kawanoe port	20th April ↓ 31st August 1st October ↓ 31st December	Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	
	Eastern area ↓ Niihama port	20th April ↓ 31st December	Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)	

	<p>Western area ↓ Niihama port</p>	<p>20th April ↓ 31st August 1st October ↓ 31st December</p>	<p>Saturday (after sunset) ↓ Sunday (after sunrise)</p>	<p>18:00 hours.</p> <p>(2) Departing the ports Vessels should depart the port by 16:00 hours.</p> <p>a) Vessels departing after 16:00 hours should anchor overnight near the quarantine anchorage of the relevant port and start out after sunrise on the following day.</p> <p>b) From autumn to winter, vessels departing the port of Mishima-Kawanoe Westward should take a roundabout route via Nabeiso to No.2 Buoy of Bingo Nada because there are possibilities vessels encountering fishing nets even before 18:00 hours.</p> <p>(3) “autumn to winter” means 1st September to 31st December.</p>
	Mitajiri-Nakanoseki port	1st September to 31st December		Arrival outside the port should between 06:00 and 17:00 hours.

The area where the escort boats should be deployed for precaution of Drift-net Fishing, Stownet Fishing during the night



- Between No.1 buoy of Harima Nada traffic route and crossing area with Mizushima traffic route
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 Escort boats should be deployed between Monday (after sunset) and Saturday (after sunrise)
 - Between No.1 buoy of Harima Nada traffic route and No.7 buoy of Bisan Seto traffic route
 - Between Ozuchi, Kozuchi islands and crossing area with Mizushima traffic route
 - Between No.7 buoy of Bisan Seto traffic route and Ozuchi, Kozuchi islands
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 Escort boats should be deployed between Saturday (after sunset) and Sunday (after sunrise) (since no fishing in area)
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→
 Escort boats should be deployed between Sunday (after sunset) and Monday (after sunrise) (since no fishing in area)