

Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and its vicinity in 2023—Navigation safety measures during the fishing season

1. Start day of safety measures (start day of fishing operation): Saturday, 4 March, 2023

2. Safety measures

(1) Traffic Route entry adjustment

Traffic Route entry is not allowed until the safety of the traffic route is ensured.

As a general rule, vessels with the pilots on board will adjust the time schedule in order to allow navigation in Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route, avoiding hours of operation which starts from 30 minutes before sunrise until around noon.

*Vessels whose destinations are restricted to the time of sunset should navigate Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route at least 30 minutes before sunrise.

- Hours of fishing operation:

I. Operation start time:

Operation starts at sunrise, but fishing boats navigate vicinity of the traffic route about 30 minutes before sunrise.

II. Operation end time:

Operation ends around noon, but it may continue past noon depending on situation.

*On 4 March (Sat), the operation starts from sunrise and ends at around 10:00, so the traffic route entry adjustment will be from 30 minutes before sunrise to 11:00.

(2) Deciding whether or not to enter the traffic route

The pilot will discuss with the captain of the vessel and decide whether or not to enter the traffic route based on the information from Osaka MARTIS and the patrol ships, etc.

(3) Escort boats

I. If a vessel with the pilot on board needs to navigate Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route between 30 minutes before sunrise and noon, an escort boat will be organised.

II. If fishing operation is continued after noon, escorting work will also be extended.

III. No survey of fishing operation status will be conducted prior to escort.

IV. As stipulated in the Maritime Traffic Safety Law, for vessels over 200m in length carrying dangerous cargo and huge vessels over 250m in length, no additional escort boats will be organised.

(4) Safety Measures implementation period:

2 to 3 weeks from start of operation (expected schedule based on recent trends)

Reference:

Year 2022: 1 March – 17 March

Year 2021: 6 March – 20 March

Year 2020: 29 February – 6 March

Year 2019: 5 March to 19 March

Year 2018: 26 February – 22 March

(5) Excluded days: Every Sunday (no fishing operation)

3. End day of Safety Measures

End day of safety measures will be discussed with relevant parties and will be announced in due course.

4. How to obtain information on fishing operation

- Website: <https://www6.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/osakawan/> (Japanese)

During the fishing season information will be updated twice at around 00 minutes and around 30 minutes every hour.

5. Depending on the situation, the above safety measures may be modified.