



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

China—Notice of Tianjin MSA on Issuing the “Ships’ Routing System for Central Waters of Bohai Bay (for Trial Implementation)”

We have obtained information by Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service Ltd. on the notice of Tianjin MSA on issuing the “Ships’ routing system for central waters of Bohai Bay (for trial implementation)” which has been implemented from 1 June 2024. For details of the geographical scope and the details of specific requirements, please find attached their circular.

Yours faithfully,

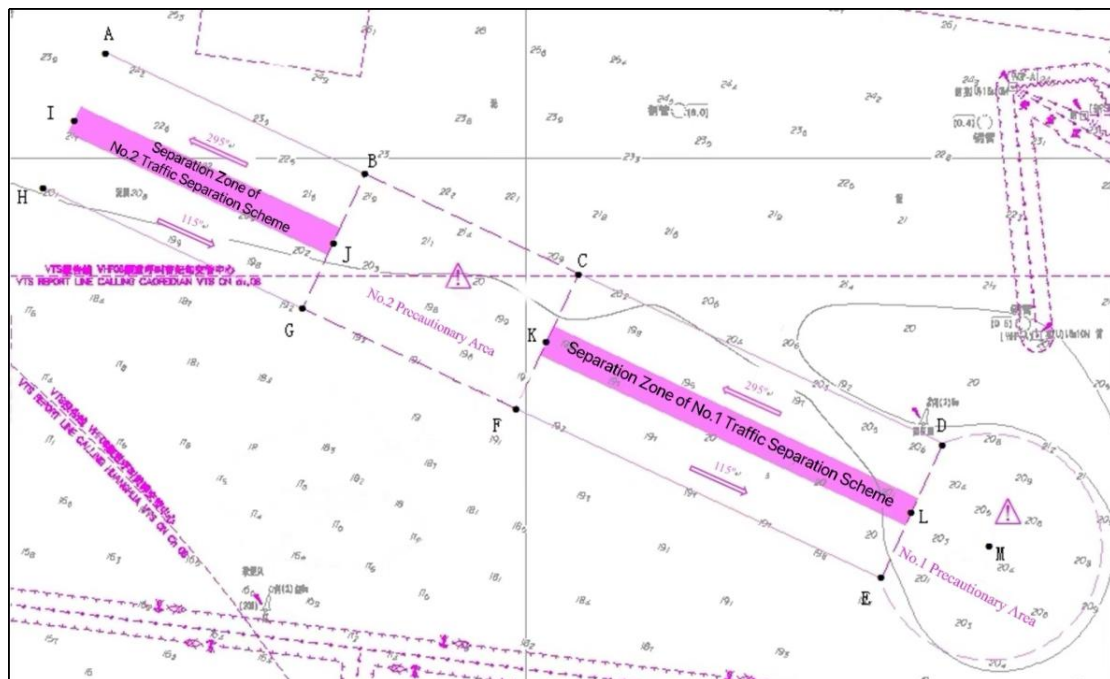
The Japan Ship Owners’ Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: Huatai Circular No. PNI[2024]07



PNI [2024] 07

01 August 2024



Notice of Tianjin MSA on Issuing the “Ships’ Routeing System for Central Waters of Bohai Bay (for Trial Implementation)”

Dear Sir/Madam

Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration (Tianjin MSA) recently issued the navigation notice of "Jinhangtong [2024] 0049". This notice announced the "Ships’ Routeing

System in the Central Waters of Bohai Bay (for Trial Implementation)" (hereinafter referred to as the "Ships' Routeing System"), which has been implemented on a trial basis from June 1, 2024. We hereby issue this Circular to introduce the main contents of the "Ships' Routeing System" and provide relevant suggestions for the reference of the Clubs and their Members.

Main Contents of the "Ships' Routeing System"

1. Geographical Scope of the Ships' Routeing System

The Routeing System consists of No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), No.1 Precautionary Area, No.2 TSS and No.2 Precautionary Area. The geographical scope and coordinates of the Traffic Lanes, Boundary Lines, Separation Zones and Precaution Areas are specified in the attachment.

2. The Competent Authority

The competent authority is Tianjin MSA of the People's Republic of China.

The Vessel Traffic Service Center of Tianjin MSA (Tianjin VTS) is responsible for the implementation of vessel traffic management and the acceptance of reporting.

3. Special Provisions

Ships following the Routeing System are not required to report to Tianjin VTS when entering or leaving the applicable waters, however they are expected to maintain continuous listening watch on VHF channel 09.

The principles to be observed by ships when navigating within the waters of the Routeing System are basically the same as those in Rule 10 of the "Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972", such as the actions to be taken for ships when crossing or entering/leaving traffic lanes, as well as

other prohibited actions, etc. It should be noted that ships crossing the traffic lanes must meet certain preconditions and should report to Tianjin VTS before crossing. In addition, when overtaking other ships in the waters of the Routeing System, the overtaking ship must obtain the consent of the overtaken ship and report to Tianjin VTS in advance. Please refer to the attachment for more specific requirements.

Our Suggestions

The implementation of the "Ships' Routeing System" provides powerful guarantees for both maintaining navigation order and improving navigation safety and efficiency in the central waters of Bohai Bay. The MSA requires that ships navigating in the applicable waters strictly abide by the "Ships' Routeing System" and submit to the supervision and management of the local MSA.

Apart from choosing to use the TSS outside Caofeidian Port, the implementation of the Ships' Routeing System provides another route choice for ships sailing from Laotieshan Waterway or Changshan Waterway to Tianjin Port, which is conducive to alleviating the traffic pressure within the TSS outside Caofeidian Port to a certain extent. We suggest ships planning to sail to Dagukou South Anchorage and Dagukou Bulk Chemical Anchorage may consider following this Routeing System. However, it is worth mentioning that the charted depth in the waters of the Routeing System is around 20 meters only, therefore deep draught ships shall choose to use the Routeing System on the premise of ensuring their safety by exercising due comprehensive consideration and assessment on the factors such as their own manoeuvring characteristics, under keel clearances, navigation environments, etc.

Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact Huatai Beijing (pni.bj@huatai-serv.com) or our local branch offices.

Best regards,



CUI Jiyu
Head of Marine Team

Attachment

**SHIPS' ROUTEING SYSTEM FOR CENTRAL WATERS OF BOHAI BAY
(DRAFT ON A TRIAL BASIS)**

1. Reference Charts and Coordinate System

Charts No. 1304/22001/22122/23001 by the Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China.

Charts No. 11010/11661/11700/11710/11800 by the Navigation Guarantee Bureau of the PLA Navy Staff Department.

The coordinate points of this routing system adopt the National Geodetic Coordinate System 2000 (Navigational purposes are equivalent to WGS-84 World Geodetic Coordinate System).

2. Applicable Geographical Area

Ships' Routing System for Central Waters of Bohai Bay consists of No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme, No.1 Precautionary Area, No.2 Traffic Separation Scheme and No.2 Precautionary Area.

2.1 No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme

2.1.1 No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme consists of Separation Zone and Traffic Lane.

2.1.2 Separation Zone of No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme, 6.8 nautical miles in length and 0.5 nautical miles in width, is centered on the line connecting the following geographical positions:

K: 38°41'54.690"N, 118°30'27.430"E

L: 38°39'02.102"N, 118°38'19.806"E

2.1.3 Traffic Lane of No.1 Traffic Separation Scheme

(1) The North Boundary Line of the Traffic Lane is the line connecting the following two geographical positions:

C: 38°43'03.071"N, 118°31'08.146"E

D: 38°40'10.498"N, 118°39'00.476"E

(2) The South Boundary Line of the Traffic Lane is the line connecting the following two geographical positions:

E: 38°37'53.688"N, 118°37'39.136"E

F: 38°40'46.353"N, 118°29'46.806"E

(3) The westbound traffic lane is the area between Separation Zones and the North Boundary Line, with the length of 6.8 nautical miles, the width of 1 nautical mile, and the main traffic direction is 295° (Ships with true course).

(4) The eastbound traffic lane is the area between Separation Zones and the South Boundary Line, with the length of 6.8 nautical miles, the width of 1 nautical mile, and the main traffic direction is 115° (Ships with true course).

2.2 No.1 Precautionary Area

No.1 Precautionary Area is bounded by the arc centered on point M, geographical position (38°38'25.091"N, 118°40'00.974"E) with the radius of 1.925 nautical miles, and the line connecting the following three geographical positions successively.

D: 38°40'10.498"N, 118°39'00.476"E

L: 38°39'02.102"N, 118°38'19.806"E

E: 38°37'53.688"N, 118°37'39.136"E

2.3 No.2 Traffic Separation Scheme

2.3.1 No.2 Traffic Separation Scheme consists of Separation Zone and Traffic Lane.

2.3.2 Separation Zone of No.2 Traffic Separation Scheme, 4.85 nautical miles in length and 0.5 nautical miles in width, is centered on the line connecting the following two geographical positions:

I: 38°45'38.812"N, 118°20'13.562"E

J: 38°43'35.810"N, 118°25'50.500"E

2.3.3 Traffic Lane of No.2 Traffic Separation Scheme

(1) The North Boundary Line of the Traffic Lane is the line connecting the following two geographical positions:

A: 38°46'47.201"N, 118°20'54.232"E

B: 38°44'44.197"N, 118°26'31.185"E

(2) The South Boundary Line of the Traffic Lane is the line connecting the following two geographical positions:

G: 38°42'27.533"N, 118°25'09.845"E

H: 38°44'30.603"N, 118°19'32.892"E

(3) The westbound traffic lane is the area between Separation Zones and the North Boundary Line, with the length of 4.85 nautical miles, the width of 1 nautical mile, and the main traffic direction is 295° (Ships with true course).

(4) The eastbound traffic lane is the area between Separation Zones and the South Boundary Line, with the length of 4.85 nautical miles, the width of 1 nautical mile, and the main traffic direction is 115° (Ships with true course).

2.4 No.2 Precautionary Area

No.2 Precautionary Area is bounded by the line connecting the following four geographical positions successively.

B: 38°44'44.197"N, 118°26'31.185"E

C: 38°43'03.071"N, 118°31'08.146"E

F: 38°40'46.353"N, 118°29'46.806"E

G: 38°42'27.533"N, 118°25'09.845"E

No.2 Precautionary Area is in a rectangular shape, 3.98 nautical miles in length and 2.5 nautical miles in width.

3. The Competent Authority

3.1 The Competent Authority is Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration, P. R. China.

3.2 The Vessel Traffic Service Center of Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration (hereinafter referred to as Tianjin VTS) are responsible for vessel traffic management and report in accordance with the responsibilities.

4. Special Provisions

4.1 Ships following this routing system are not required to report when entering or leaving this area.

4.2 Ships navigating within this routing system shall comply with the following regulations:

(1) They shall not be exempt from the responsibilities and obligations prescribed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.

(2) They shall keep watch on VHF Channel 09.

(3) Ships are not allowed to cross the traffic lane unless permitted. If crossing is unavoidable, they shall report to Tianjin VTS and inform surrounding ships of their status in advance. Crossing should only occur when it is confirmed that no ships are approaching within the traffic lane.

(4) When entering or leaving the traffic lane, ships shall navigate with an angle as small as possible with the general direction of flow within the lane.

(5) When overtaking is necessary, overtaking vessel shall get permission from the overtaken vessel, and report to Tianjin VTS in advance. Overtaking shall not result in close-quarters situation with other vessels.

(6) Anchoring, fishing, and farming are prohibited in the Precautionary Areas, Traffic Lanes, and nearby waters of their terminations. Other activities within the routeing system area are subject to approval by the maritime safety administration.

(7) Ships shall navigate with particular caution proceeding into and out of the Precautionary Areas as well as in the Precautionary Areas. Good seamanship practices shall be employed at all times.

4.3 Ships in violation of this Routeing System shall be subject to penalties by the competent authority in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and rules.

5. Implementation

This ships' routeing system shall be implemented on June 1, 2024, on a trial basis for a period of one year.