



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

China—Zhejiang MSA issues the “Notice on Initiating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Maritime Law Enforcement”

We have obtained information by Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service Ltd. on the “Notice on Initiating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Maritime Law Enforcement” (hereinafter referred to as the “Notice”), issued on 30 September 2024.

The coverage area of law enforcement by UAVs is the entire area under the jurisdiction of Zhejiang MSA. Law enforcement matters include navigation environment, the flying of ships flags and the display of ship signals, the securing and lashing of cargoes, pollution prevention conditions of ships, accident investigation, search and rescue, and a wide range of other matters. The use of UAVs can rapidly reach the target law enforcement area without being restricted by terrain and water areas, and it is more efficient and can cover a broader range. UAVs can also take advantage of their equipped high-resolution cameras and sensors to conduct on-site evidence collection of explicit illegal acts.

In terms of ship operation and management, it is important to ensure the crew to be all familiar with the content of the “Notice” and that the ship’s safety management system, applicable local laws and regulations are strictly followed. In the meantime, it is suggested that the ships conduct thorough maintenance on the hull and equipment strictly in accordance with the formulated maintenance plan and pay special attention to conduct self-inspections. For details, please find attached their circular.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners’ Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: Huatai Circular No. PNI (2024) 09



**HUATAI
MARINE**

CIRCULAR |

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Zhejiang Maritime Safety Administration Issues the “Notice on Initiating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Maritime Law Enforcement”

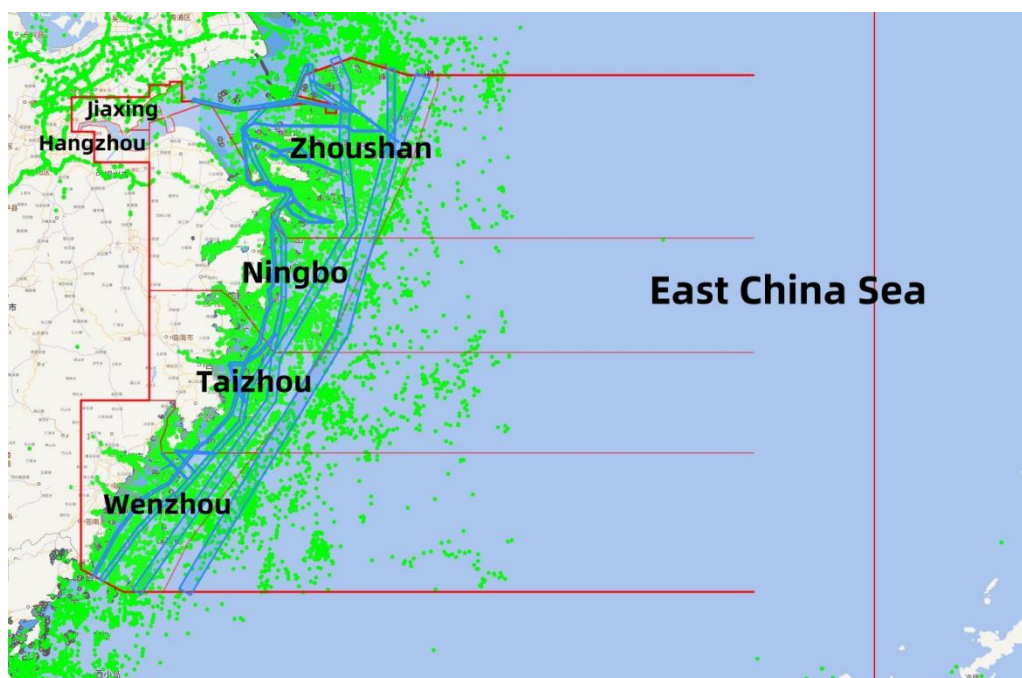
Dear Sir/Madam,

On September 30, 2024, Zhejiang Maritime Safety Administration (Zhejiang MSA) issued the “Notice on Initiating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Maritime Law Enforcement” (hereinafter referred to as the "Notice"), deciding to use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for maritime law enforcement patrols within its jurisdiction from October 1, 2024. This Circular will introduce the main

content of the Notice and its possible impacts, and provide our suggestions and an English translation of the Notice for the reference of the Clubs and their Members.

The Coverage Area and Matters of the Law Enforcement by UAVs

The Coverage Area of the Law Enforcement



The coverage area of law enforcement by UAVs is the entire area under the jurisdiction of Zhejiang MSA. UAVs shall takeoff from law enforcement personnel, law enforcement vehicles or boats, and the takeoff locations are the waters and coastal areas under the jurisdiction of the Zhejiang MSA, as well as the offices of the subordinate MSA at all levels under the management of Zhejiang MSA.

The jurisdiction area of Zhejiang MSA encompasses all waters along the coast of Zhejiang and all inland waters of Ningbo, Zhoushan, Wenzhou and Taizhou cities, as well as some inland waters of Jiaxing and Shaoxing (Shangyu).

Law Enforcement Matters

1. Navigation environment and order within the jurisdiction.
2. Navigation, berthing and operation of ships.
3. Reporting of Chinese domestic ships on the entry and exit of the port and loading and unloading stations outside the port, declaration of entry and exit of the port by foreign ships.
4. The flying of ship flags and the display of ship signals, etc.
5. The transportation of passengers and cargoes by ships, as well as the securing and lashing of cargoes.
6. Water and underwater operations and activities.
7. Pollution prevention conditions of ships.
8. Accident investigation, search and rescue.
9. Other law enforcement matters applicable to UAVs.

Possible Impacts

We believe that the use of UAVs for law enforcement by the MSA may have the following impacts:

Firstly, the use of UAVs can rapidly reach the target law enforcement area without being restricted by terrain and water areas, effectively covering areas that are difficult for patrol boats to reach or patrol, therefore the law

enforcement by UAVs is more efficient and could cover a broader range. In terms of ship supervision, compared to patrol boats on which the law enforcement officers conduct inspections, UAVs can reach more positions of the ship for inspection and accurately find hidden dangers such as safety and pollution prevention that are difficult to observe from patrol boats, and reduce blind spots in law enforcement.

Secondly, using UAVs for law enforcement will make on-site evidence collection more convenient. UAVs can take advantage of their equipped high-resolution cameras and sensors to conduct on-site evidence collection of explicit illegal acts in the form of static photographs or dynamic videos. Therefore, discovering illegal acts and collecting evidence can be completed simultaneously. However, in certain cases, the captured images may be blurred due to the weather conditions or limitations of marine environmental conditions, which may cause misjudgments on the on-scene situation by UAVs and thereby triggering disputes in terms of supervision or punishment.

Loss Prevention Suggestions

The application of UAVs in maritime law enforcement has improved the effectiveness and regulatory efficiency of maritime law enforcement, and enhanced the safety of maritime traffic. In the meantime, it also put forward higher requirements for the operation and management of ships. To cope with this alteration in law enforcement approaches, we suggest:

1. Ensure that the crew familiar with the content of the "Notice" and require the crew to strictly follow the operating procedures provided in the ship's safety management system and in the meantime comply with applicable local laws, regulations, rules and special requirements, etc. It has come to our knowledge that UAVs have recently captured ships' illegal or irregular behaviors such as failure to raise or lower the national flag or signal flag as required, failure to

prepare anchors or to post forecastle lookouts in accordance with relevant regulations, emitting black smoke from ship's funnel, etc in the coastal waters and inland rivers of China, and such acts were investigated by MSA and penalties were imposed to ships.

2. Due to the fact that using UAVs for maritime law enforcement will bring more comprehensive supervision and inspection of ships than using patrol boats for law enforcement, we suggest that ships conduct thorough maintenance on the hull and equipment strictly in accordance with the formulated maintenance plan to eliminate the hidden dangers of ships in safety and pollution prevention. Special attention should be paid to conducting self-inspections of areas that are difficult to be inspected physically and visually, in order to avoid defects being discovered in those areas by the MSA through UAVs.

3. If there are any issues related to the use of UAVs for maritime law enforcement, we suggest that ships promptly contact their local agents or correspondents for active and proper handling to safeguard their own interests.

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

浙江海事局关于启用无人驾驶航空器开展海事执法 的通告

Notice of Zhejiang Maritime Safety Administration on Initiating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Maritime Law Enforcement

为规范无人驾驶航空器在海事执法领域的运用,推动海事监管智能化、规范化、高效化、集约化,保护公民、法人和其他组织的合法权益,提升行政执法效能,浙江海事局决定自2024年10月1日起在管辖区域内启用无人驾驶航空器开展行政执法检查并对海事违法行为进行抓拍取证。根据《中华人民共和国行政处罚法》第四十一条第一款的规定,现将启用无人驾驶航空器开展执法的设置地点、执法时间、覆盖范围、执法主体、执法事项及法律依据等向社会通告如下:

To standardize the application of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the field of maritime law enforcement, promote intelligent, standardized, efficient and intensive maritime supervision, protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens, legal persons and other organizations, and enhance the effectiveness of administrative law enforcement, the Zhejiang Maritime Safety Administration (Zhejiang MSA) has decided to use UAVs to conduct administrative law enforcement inspections and capture evidence of maritime violations within its jurisdiction starting from October 1, 2024. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 41 of the "Administrative Sanctioning Law of the People's Republic of China", the following is a notice to the public on the setting

locations, law enforcement times, coverage, law enforcement entities, law enforcement matters and legal bases for using UAVs for law enforcement:

一、设置地点

1. The Deployment Locations of UAVs

随执法人员、执法车辆或船艇起飞，起飞地点为浙江海事局管辖水域及沿岸区域、浙江海事局各级海事管理机构办公点。

UAVs will Take off from law enforcement personnel, law enforcement vehicles or boats. The takeoff locations are the waters and coastal areas under the jurisdiction of the Zhejiang MSA and the offices of the subordinate MSA at all levels under the management of Zhejiang MSA.

二、执法时间

2. Law Enforcement Period

每天 00:00—24:00。

From 00:00 to 24:00 on daily basis.

三、覆盖范围

3. Coverage Area

浙江海事局管辖区域。

Areas under the jurisdiction of Zhejiang MSA.

四、执法主体

4. Law Enforcement Entities

浙江海事局及下属海事管理机构。

Zhejiang MSA and its subordinate maritime administrative institutions.

五、执法事项

5. Law Enforcement Matters

1. 辖区通航环境和通航秩序；

1. Navigation environment and order within the jurisdiction.

2. 船舶航行、停泊、作业情况；

2. Navigation, berthing and operation of ships.

3. 中国籍国内航行船舶进出港口、港外装卸站报告情况及外国籍船舶进出口岸申报情况；

3. Reporting of Chinese domestic ships on the entry and exit of the port and loading and unloading stations outside the port, declaration of entry and exit of the port by foreign ship.

4. 船舶旗帜悬挂，船舶信号显示等情况；

4. The flying of ship flags and the display of ship signals, etc.

5. 船舶客货载运及货物系固绑扎情况；

5. The transportation of passengers and cargoes by ships, as well as the securing and lashing cargoes.

6. 水上水下作业和活动情况；

6. Water and underwater operations and activities.

7. 船舶防污染情况；

7. Pollution prevention conditions of ships.

8. 事故调查和搜寻救助；

8. Accident investigation, search and rescue.

9. 其他适用无人驾驶航空器的执法事项。

9. Other law enforcement matters applicable to UVAs.

六、法律依据

6. Legal Basis

本通告相关事项依据《中华人民共和国海上交通安全法》《中华人民共和国行政处罚法》等相关法律制定。

The matters related to this notice are formulated in accordance with relevant laws such as the "Maritime Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China" and the "Administrative Sanctioning Law of the People's Republic of China".

特此通告。

Hereby notified.

浙江海事局

Zhejiang MSA

2024 年 9 月 30 日

30 September, 2024