



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

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

The drift-net fishing season will start from 20 April 2026 throughout the Seto Inland Sea in Japan. Licensed 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 the Pilots' Association.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: The guidance for safe navigation issued by the Licensed Inlandsea Pilots' Association (free translation)

= Free Translation =

I.S.P. Tech No.26-011
15 April 2026

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 Seto Inland Sea (Request for Cooperation)

Dear Sirs,

The season of drift-net fishing starts from 20 April 2026 throughout the Seto Inland Sea. 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 parties concerned, there have not been any serious accidents so far. As you may be aware, the drift-nets over 2,000 metres long are used in certain fishing areas. Moreover, in the area from Bisan Seto to Hiuchi Nada, a large number of drift-net fishing boats are in operation, forcing vessels to adjust traffic route not only inside but also outside the navigation route.

In an effort to ensure the safe navigation, we intend to implement the safety measures as attached. Moreover, as we have obtained information that the fishing season will be extended in some areas, we will extend the navigation safety measures for the area between Bisan Seto East Traffic Route No. 2 Light Buoy and the Mizushima Traffic Route Crossing Position, as was done last year. There is a possibility that the navigation safety measures may be altered depending on the situation. Regarding any sort of troubles with fisheries officials, pilots cannot respond to requests for submission of any statements. Shipowners are requested to take action based on the Master's statement.

We thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,

President of Licensed Inlandsea Pilots' Association

The Safety Measures during the Drift-net Fishing Season in 2026

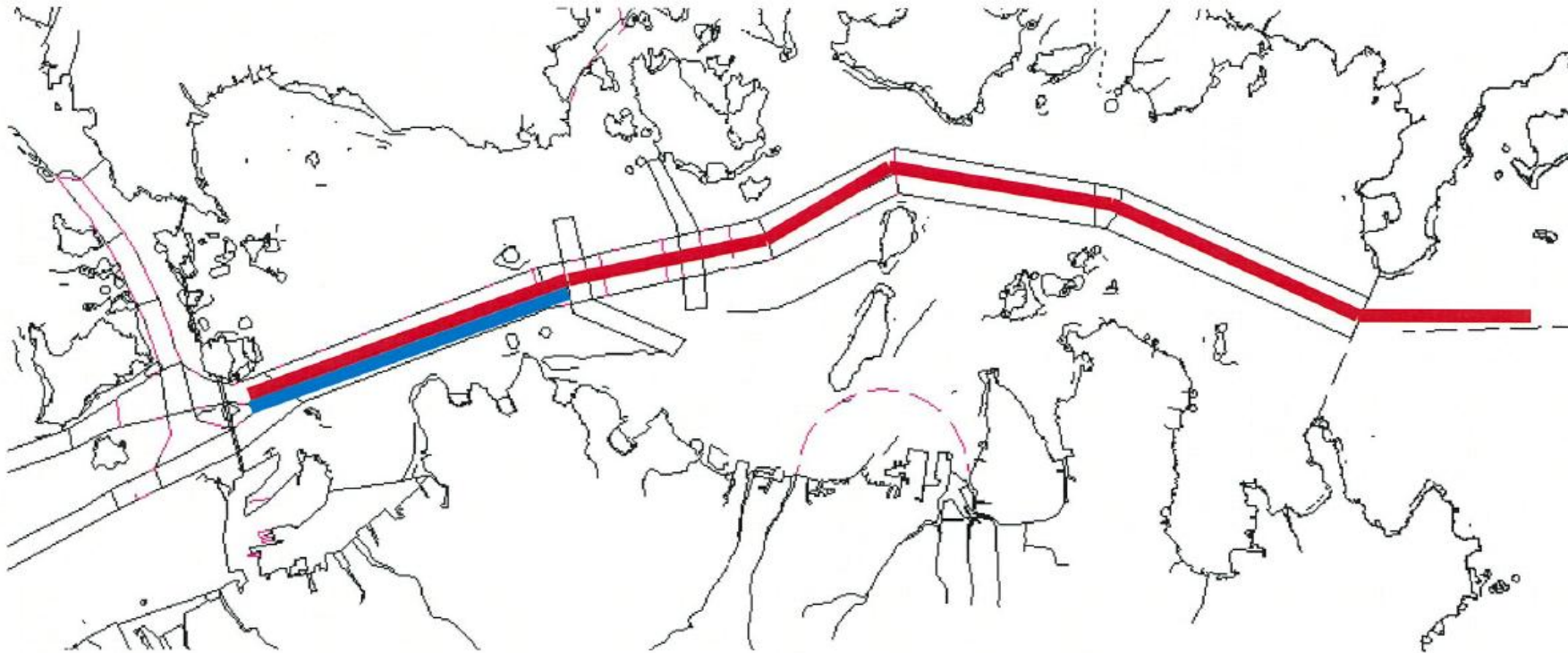
	Area of The Safety Measures	Duration and time of the fishing operation	Suspension of fishing operation	Contents of the Safety Measures
[Harima Nada]	Between Harima Nada Traffic Route No.1 Light Buoy and Mizushima Traffic Route Crossing Position	20 April to 30 November	After Sunset on Tuesdays until Sunrise on Wednesdays After Sunset on Saturdays until Sunrise on Sundays ※Suspension from 3 May to 5 May. Operation On 6 May	(1) The vessels navigating with the pilots on board should pass this area by 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn). (2) When the vessels are compelled to navigate this area after 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn), the vessels should arrange escort boats for precaution from 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in autumn) until sunrise on the following day. (3) The area for escort boats to be organised is as per the attachment-1 (Reference) The fishing operation of a catch of Spanish mackerel: 20 April to 20 July 1 October to 20 December The fishing operation of a catch of pomfret: 1 June to 31 October
[Bisan Seto]	Bisan Seto East Traffic Route No.2 Light Buoy and Mizushima Traffic Route Crossing Position	1 December to 20 December		
	Between the east and	20 April to 30 November	After Sunset on Saturdays until Sunrise on	(1) Entering the ports


[Hiuchi Nada]	the port of Mishima-Kawanoe	(due to the restriction of fishing operation by Kagawa and Okayama Pref.)	Sundays	<p>Vessels should pass ES line or No.7 Light Buoy of Bingo Nada after sunrise and arrive at outside of the ports by 18:00 hours (17:00 hours in November and December) by adjusting the pilot boarding time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Vessels should pass ES line 20 minutes after departing Kurushima Strait Traffic Route. ② Vessels should pass No.7 Light Buoy of Bingo Nada 20 minutes after departing Bisan Seto North Traffic Route. • During November and December, the vessels entering the port of Mishima-Kawanoe from the West should take a roundabout route via No. 2 Light Buoy of Bingo Nada to Nabeiso in order to avoid encountering fishing nets even before 17:00 hours. <p>(2) Departing the ports</p> <p>Vessels departing the ports should do so by 16:00 hours.</p> <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During November and December, vessels departing the port of Mishima-Kawanoe Westward should take a roundabout route via Nabeiso to No.2 Buoy of Bingo Nada in order to avoid encountering fishing nets along the normal route even before 17:00 hours.
	Between the west and the port of Mishima-Kawanoe	20 April to 31 August 1 October to 31 December	After Sunset on Saturdays until Sunrise on Sundays	
	Between the east and the port of Niihama	20 April to 31 December	After Sunset on Saturdays until Sunrise on Sundays	
	Between the west and the port of Niihama	20 April to 31 August 1 October to 31 December	After Sunset on Saturdays until Sunrise on Sundays	
	the port of Mitajiri-Nakanoseki	1 September to 31 December		<p>When entering the port of Mitajiri-Nakanoseki, arrival outside the port should be between 06:00 and 17:00 hours.</p>

The area for escort boats to be organised for precaution in the night.

Attachment-1


夜間「流し網」に対する進路警戒船配備区間



 播磨灘航路第1号灯浮標～水島航路交差部
Between No.1 Buoy of the Harima Nada and
Mizushima Traffic Route Crossing Position



進路警戒船の配備が必要となる海域。
休漁日を除く18時(秋季は17時)以降
から日出まで進路警戒船を配備する。

 備讃瀬戸東航路中央第2号灯浮標～
水島航路交差部
Bisan Seto East Traffic Route No.2 Light Buoy and
Mizushima Traffic Route Crossing Position

The vessels should organise escort boats for
precaution in this area from 1800LT(1700LT in autumn) until
Sunrise on the following day
excluding on suspension days.