



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and Its Vicinity in 2026—Navigation Safety Measures during the Fishing Season

We have obtained information by Licensed Inlandsea Pilots' Association on the navigation safety measures during fishing season of whitebait in Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and its vicinity. We attach our free translation of the letter from the Pilots' Association for your reference.

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)

Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and Its Vicinity – Navigation Safety Measures during the Fishing Season

There is a large number of fishing boats operating in the Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and its vicinity. According to the relevant parties concerned, the fishing operation is for catching whitebait. We would like to implement the following safety measures to ensure the safety of vessels. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Implementation period: From 29 May 2026 for the time being (excluding non-fishing days*)
*Non fishing days = Wednesdays and Sundays
2. Operation hours: 30 minutes before sunrise until around 11:00 am.
3. Safety measures: **Do not enter the Traffic Route until safety is ensured.**
(Even after the operation hours stated above, entry is to be postponed should the safety is not ensured.)

[Traffic Route entry adjustment]

As a 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 11:00 am.

If a vessel needs to navigate Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route during the operation hours, an escort boat will be organised.

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.

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