

Circular No.: SPI240401

Date: 18 April, 2024

Subject: Notice issued by Shandong MSA with respect to the recommended route for fishing vessels in the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao, China

Dear Sirs / Madams,

Please be kindly advised that, Shandong Maritime Safety Administration and Shandong Agriculture and Rural Administration has jointly promulgated the Notice on April 9, 2024 with respect to the recommended route for fishing vessels in the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao, Weihai, Shandong Province along with the related navigation guidance for the vessels in the area.

We have summarized the key contents of this Notice as follows for your easy reference:

1. The densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao, Weihai

The densely navigated area in the southeast of Shidao, Weihai was announced in Notice of Weihai Maritime Safety Administration [2015] No. 017, delineated by the lines connecting the following four points: 36°57'00"N, 122°42'42"E; 36°57'00"N, 122°56'36"E; 36°35'00"N, 122°42'42"E; 36°35'00"N, 122°56'36"E. This area spans 11 nautical miles from east to west and 22 nautical miles from north to south.



The waterway in this area experiences heavy maritime traffic and complex navigational conditions, leading to frequent collisions between commercial and fishing vessels. Vessels navigating through this area are reminded to exercise special caution and take proactive measures to prevent accidents.

2. The recommended route for fishing vessels in the area

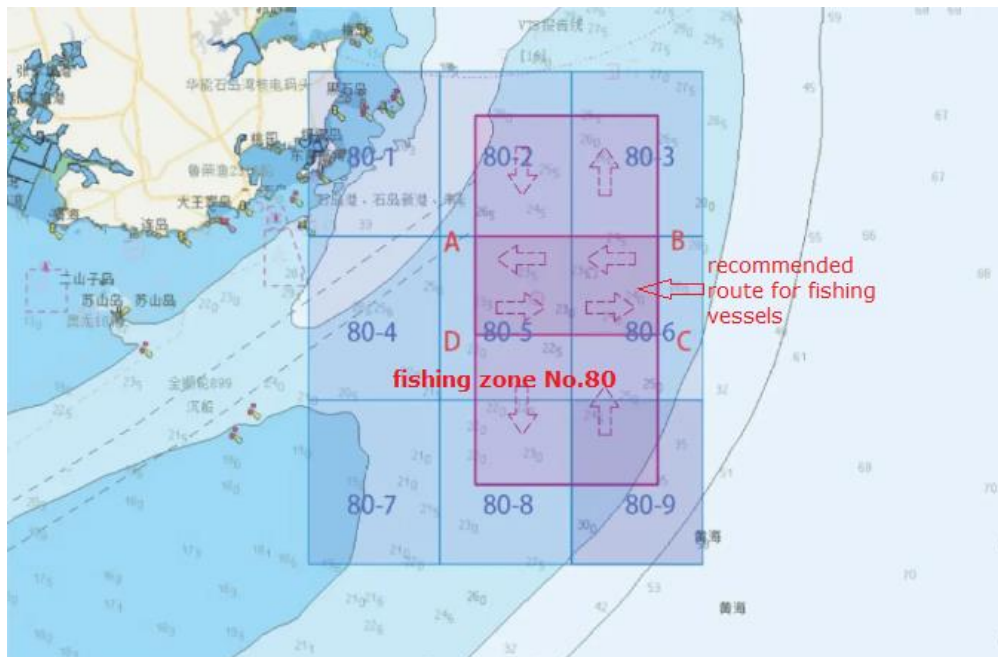
The recommended route for fishing vessels is the water area enclosed by the lines connecting points A, B, C, and D.

- A: 36°50'00.00"N/122°42'42.00"E;
B: 36°50'00.00"N/122°56'36.00"E;
C: 36°44'00.00"N/122°56'36.00"E;
D: 36°44'00.00"N/122°42'42.00"E



This recommended route spans 11 nautical miles from east to west and 6 nautical miles from north to south. It is intended to guide fishing vessels through the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao in an orderly manner, thereby regulating the navigation order of this area and preventing potential collisions between commercial and fishing vessels.

The boundary AB of the route is delineated by the fishing zone boundaries of 80-1, 80-2, 80-3, 80-4, 80-5, and 80-6, facilitating quick recognition by fishing vessels.



3. Navigation guidelines for fishing vessels in the recommended route

- (1) Fishing vessels should enter or exit the recommended route at the smallest possible angle. Whenever safe and feasible, they should strive to navigate along the right side of the route in the direction of travel.
- (2) When fishing vessels navigate north-south across the recommended route, they should observe the dynamics of other fishing vessels within the recommended route in advance and endeavor to avoid crossing during periods of heavy fishing vessel traffic.
- (3) When fishing vessels navigate through the recommended route, it is essential to ensure clear communication via VHF Channel 16 and comply with traffic management regulations from the competent authorities to guarantee safety.

4. Navigation guidelines for commercial vessels in the area

- (1) When navigating through densely navigated area, commercial vessels should observe the dynamics of fishing vessels in the area beforehand. If fishing vessels are



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concentrated in crossing the recommended route, commercial vessels should take proactive measures such as reducing speed, stopping, or detouring to ensure safety.

- (2) When commercial vessels are navigating in the east-west direction, it is not advisable for them to use the recommended route for fishing vessels due to safety considerations
- (3) When commercial vessels are navigating in the north-south direction, crossing the recommended route of fishing vessels is permitted, but the particular attention should be paid and following precautions measures should be taken:
- 1) The captain should take command on the bridge in advance, using hand steering, and if necessary, standing by engine.
 - 2) Maintain a safe speed and cross the recommended route of fishing vessel as a right angle as possible.
 - 3) Keep available on VHF channel 16, coordinate for maneuvering, and ensure clear passage when crossing.
 - 4) Exercise caution when overtaking during the crossing of the recommended route for fishing vessels.

For the sake of completeness, we also attach herein the free-translation of the Notice issued by Shandong MSA and Shandong Agriculture and Rural Administration for your easy reference.

We hope the above will be of some assistance. If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact with us.

Yours faithfully,

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Attachment

Free-Translation

Notice on Joint Announcement of Recommended Navigation Routes for fishing vessels in the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao

To ensure the safety of vessel navigation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of "Maritime Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China", the recommended navigation route for fishing vessels in the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao, along with navigation guidelines for vessels, are hereby announced as follows

1. Recommended Navigation Route of Fishing Vessels

The recommended navigation route of fishing vessel is bounded by the line joining of below points A, B, C, and D:

A: 36 °50'00.00"N / 122 °42'42.00"E

B: 36 °50'00.00"N / 122 °56'36.00"E

C: 36 °44'00.00"N / 122 °56'36.00"E

D: 36 °44'00.00"N / 122 °42'42.00"E

Refer to the sketch below



2. Navigation guidelines for Vessels in the densely navigated area in southeast of Shidao

This guide is provided for reference purposes only to vessel owners, captains, or crew members. At all times, it does not exempt them from their responsibility for the safe navigation of the vessel.

1) Navigation guidelines for vessels in the densely navigated area

- (1) Vessels should inspect key equipment on board before entering the water area. While navigating in this area, exercise particular caution, enhance lookout, maintain a safe speed, and display lights and signals as required.
- (2) Pay special attention to the movements of fishing vessels, vessels out of control, and vessels with restricted maneuverability. Take evasive action early and give ample way to other vessels.
- (3) In case of poor visibility or during periods of dense traffic, vessels should increase lookout to ensure safe navigation.
- (4) Monitor the dynamics of fishing vessels within the recommended navigation route in advance, and try to avoid crossing the route during periods of heavy fishing vessel traffic.
- (5) Avoid anchoring, fishing, or engaging in other activities that may affect maritime traffic safety within the recommended navigation route for fishing vessels.

2) Navigation guidelines for vessels crossing the recommended route of fishing vessels

- (1) The captain should take command on the bridge in advance, using hand steering, and if necessary, standing by engine.
- (2) Maintain a safe speed and cross the recommended navigation route of fishing vessels at right angles to the overall traffic flow whenever possible
- (3) Keep available on VHF channel 16, coordinate for maneuvering, and ensure safe passage by giving way as required.
- (4) Exercise caution when overtaking while crossing the recommended route of fishing vessels.

3) Navigation guide for using the recommended route of fishing vessels

- (1) Enter (exit) the recommended route of fishing vessels at as small an angle as possible. Whenever safe and feasible, travel along the right side of the route in the direction of traffic flow

- (2) The captain should take command on the bridge in advance, using hand steering, and standing by engine if necessary.
- (3) Maintain available on VHF channel 16, coordinate for maneuvering, and comply with traffic organization for giving way.
- (4) Use a safe speed and exercise caution when overtaking

4) Key Points To Be Noted During Critical Periods.

- (1) During the period before and after the fishing moratorium in the summer, as well as before and after severe weather conditions, when fishing vessels densely pass through the recommended route, vessels should comply with special traffic control measures during these specific periods.
- (2) During the high-risk period for collisions between merchant ships and fishing vessels, which is from 23:00 to 04:00 the following morning, vessels should heighten vigilance and, if necessary, increase the number of personnel on navigation duty and lookout duty.

Shandong Maritime Safety Administration
Shandong Agriculture and Rural Administration

April 9, 2024