



SHANGHAI P&I SERVICES LTD.

力保海事服务（上海）有限公司

Circular No.: SPI250301

Date: 28 March, 2025

Subject: Precautions for Anchoring Ships in the Yangtze River Estuary and Adjacent Waters

Dear Sirs / Madams,

The Yangtze River Estuary and its adjacent waters serve as a critical junction for vessels entering and exiting the Yangtze River, Shanghai Port, and North-South sailing routes. With an average daily traffic exceeding 1,000 ships, this area is characterized by high navigational density, extensive fishing operations, and significant anchoring demand. Due to factors such as port navigation plans and adverse weather conditions, a large number of vessels often anchor in these waters, leading to a shortage of anchoring resources.

The improper anchoring behavior of some vessels significantly increases the likelihood of collisions between commercial ships, collisions between commercial and fishing vessels, cable damage, and other navigational risks, severely jeopardizing maritime safety and impeding navigation efficiency.

Therefore, based on the information from Wusong VTS of Shanghai port, we have compiled two typical cases of collision accidents involving ships anchoring in the Yangtze River Estuary and its adjacent waters this year, along with a summary of anchoring requirements, for your ease of reference.

Case Reviews

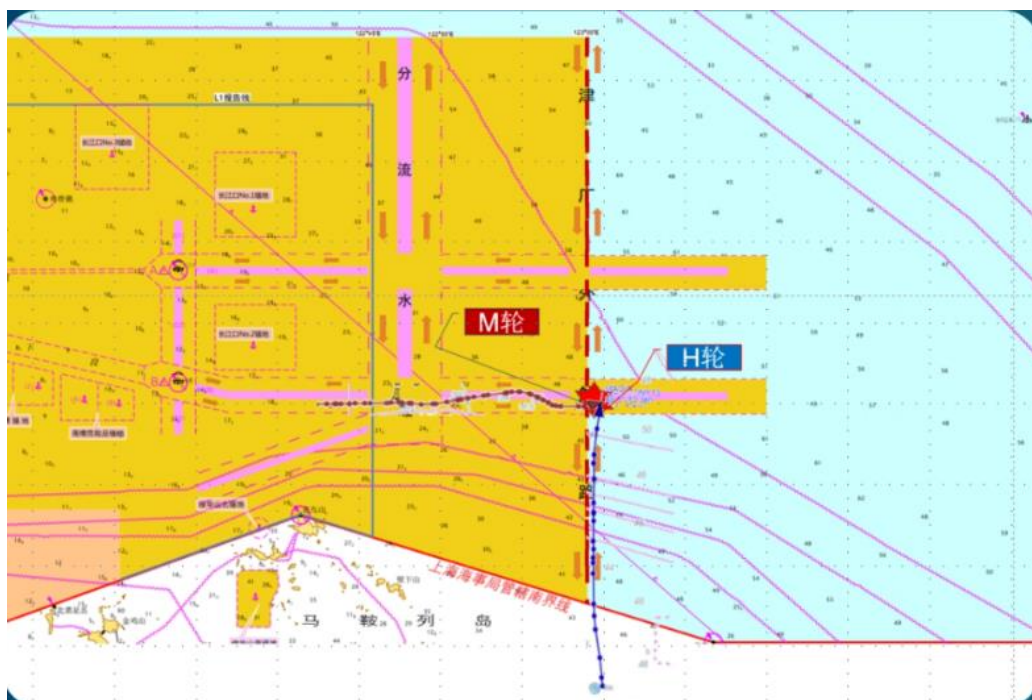
Case 1: Collision on January 25, 2025

At 18:40 on January 25, 2025, a collision occurred 27 nautical miles east of the Yangtze River Estuary between the sailing vessel "L" (bound for Jingjiang port) and the anchored vessel "J". The investigation revealed that vessel "J" was anchored in an inappropriate location, specifically in the crossing waters of the extension section of Channel A at the Yangtze River Estuary and the Tianjin-Guangzhou Outer Routing. This improper anchoring was a contributing factor to the collision.



Case 2: Collision on February 24, 2025

At 23:06 on February 24, 2025, a collision took place 24 nautical miles east of the South Channel lightship between the outbound vessel "M" and the northbound vessel "H". The incident occurred in the crossing waters of the extension section of Channel B and the Tianjin-Guangzhou Outer Routing.



Both accidents occurred near 123°E, in vicinity of Tianjin- Guangzhou Outer Routing, which is the crossing waters of shipping routes. Vessel sailing through this area should navigate with special caution.

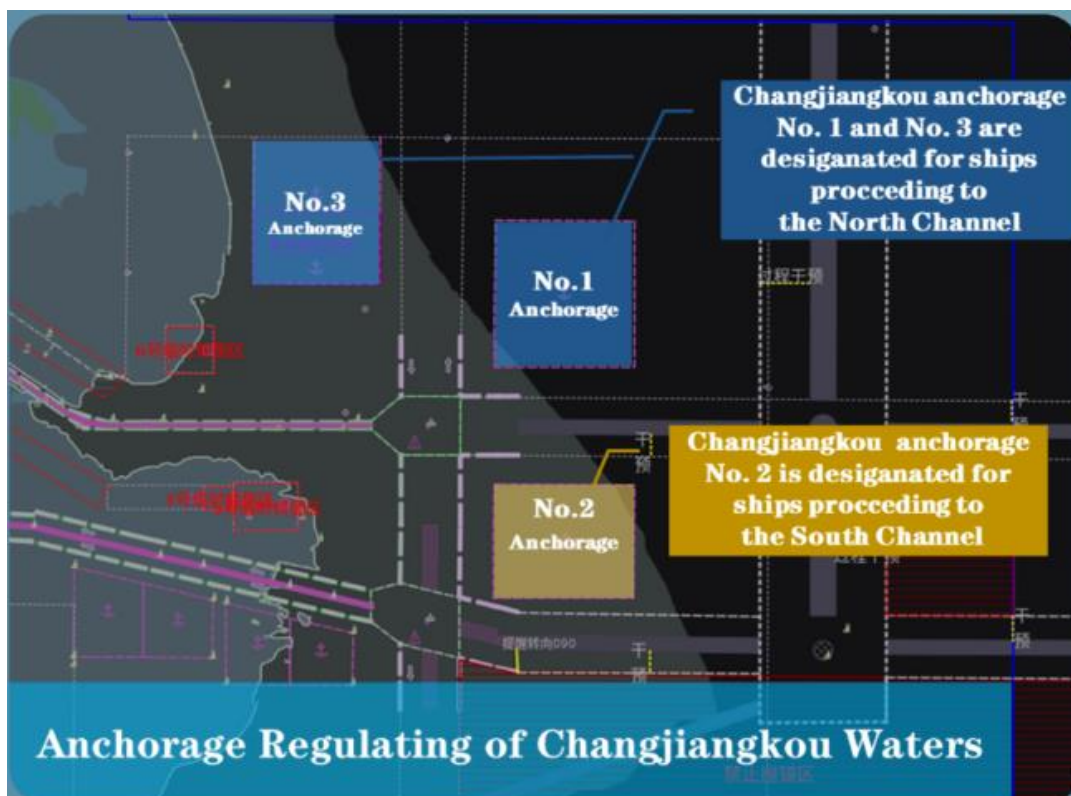
Anchorage Requirements

In accordance with the *Ship Routing System for Yangtze River Estuary (2008)* and the *Notice of Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration on Further Strengthening Ship Traffic Management in the Yangtze River Estuary and its Adjacent Waters*, the following requirements are stipulated for vessels anchoring in the Yangtze River Estuary and its adjacent waters:

1. Anchorage Selection

Vessels shall select an appropriate anchorage position based on their sailing plans, tonnage, and other relevant factors. When entering or leaving an anchorage, vessels should verify their intentions to other ships to avoid collisions.

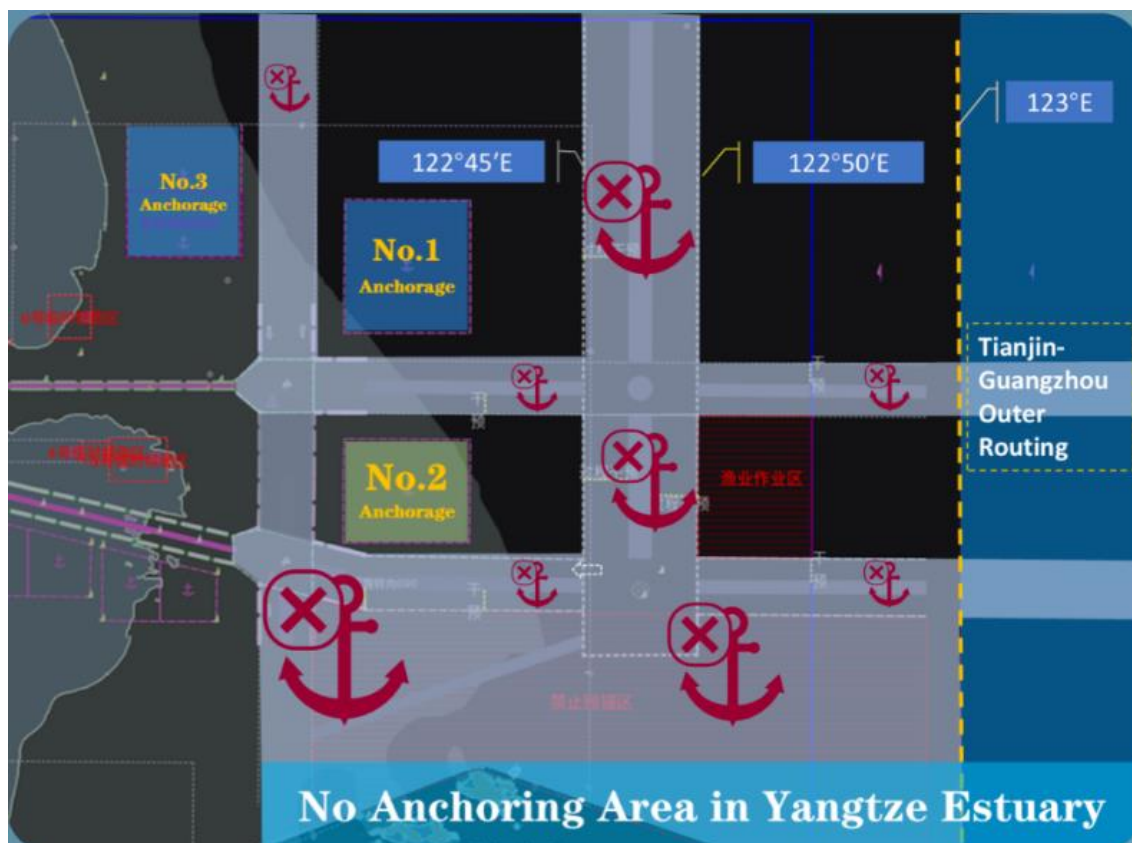
- Vessels entering through the North Channel should anchor at CJK No. 1 or CJK No. 3 anchorage.
- Vessels entering through the South Channel should anchor at Changjiangkou No. 2 anchorage.



2. Anchoring Prohibited Area

Anchoring is prohibited in the routing scheme waters of Channel A, Channel B, Channel C1, Channel C3, and their extensions. The separation zone, which serves as a transit channel for north-south sailing vessels, is also prohibited for anchoring. In emergencies requiring anchoring, vessels must immediately report to the maritime administrative authority.

Additionally, a large number of submarine optical cables are distributed near the north-south reporting line of the Yangtze Estuary routing system. Vessels must consult nautical charts to confirm cable locations when anchoring to avoid anchoring in these areas.



3. Avoiding Fishing Areas

During fishing seasons, the Yangtze River Estuary waters are crowded with fishing vessels. Vessels must maintain a safe distance from fishing boats and nets before anchoring. After anchoring, it is crucial to enhance anchoring watch, especially at night or during periods of poor visibility.

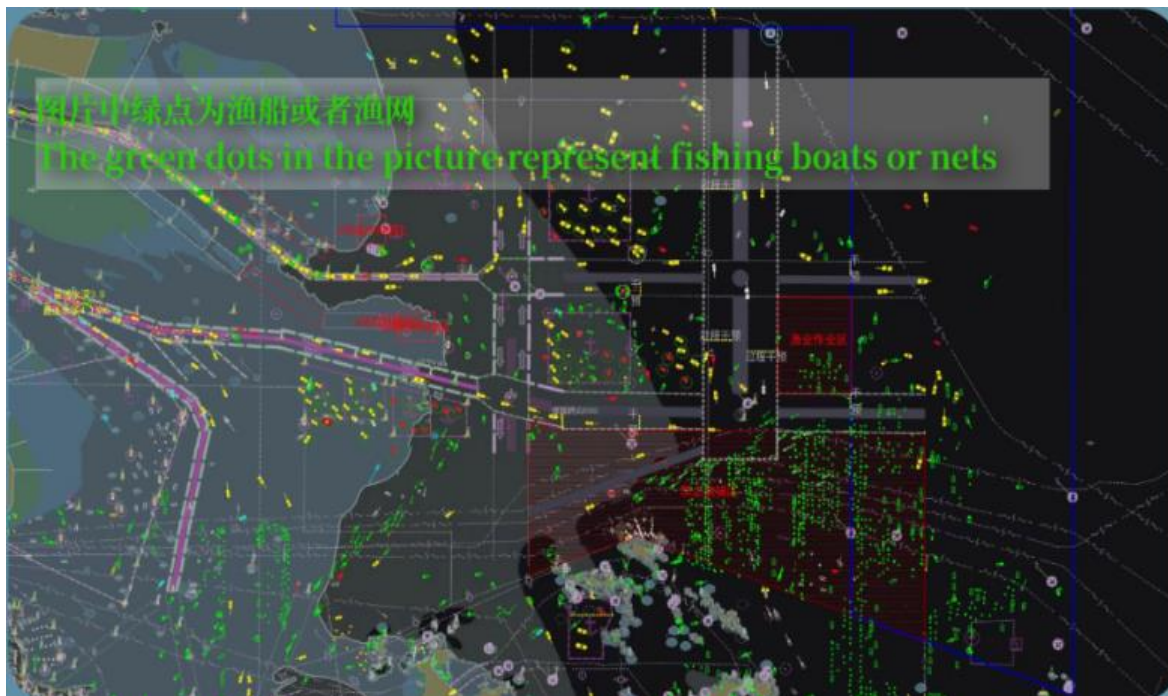
Please intensify radar and visual lookout, and stay alert to collision risks caused by fishing



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vessels with inoperative or non-transmitting AIS.



To ensure navigational safety and efficiency in the Yangtze River Estuary and its adjacent waters, all vessels should adhere to the above requirements. Proper anchorage selection, compliance with anchoring-prohibited area, and vigilance in fishing areas are essential to prevent accidents and safeguard maritime operations.

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

(Note: The diagrams in this circular are sourced from Wusong VTS center.)

Yours faithfully,

General Manager

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