

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-304

To: Ship-owners/Operators, Shipping Companies, Masters and Officers of Vessels, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

Subject: Implementation of New Ship's Routeing System in Panama.

Reference: Law No. 7 of November 9, 1978 adopted Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREG's).
MMC-30 - Observance of Traffic Separation Schemes.
Circulars COLREG.2/Circ.65 and SN.1/Circ.326.
MMN-14/2020 - Routeing Measures Other Than Traffic Separation Schemes (**Only recommendation**).

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all users that the International Maritime Organization through the Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-third session adopted the following new traffic separation schemes and routeing measures other than traffic separation schemes:

a. New traffic separation scheme on the Pacific Coast of Panama, which covers Part 1 "Gulf of Panama"; Part 2 "Morro de Puercos"; Part 3 "Isla Jicarita" and Part 4 which describes inshore traffic zones. [Click here](#) for a full description.

b. Recommendations on navigation for the new traffic separation scheme "On the Pacific coast of Panama" (Part 1 "Gulf of Panama").

In order to help reduce the risk of lethal strikes with cetaceans, it is recommended that, as far as it is safe and practical to do so, ships should proceed at a speed of no more than 10 knots, from 1 August to 30 November every year.

This recommendation applies to both traffic lanes of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Gulf of Panama, north of latitude 08°00'.00 N.



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- c. New traffic separation scheme at the approaches to Puerto Cristobal, which includes inshore traffic zones. [Click here](#) for a full description.
 - d. Precautionary area for the new traffic separation scheme "At the approaches to Puerto Cristobal". [Click here](#) for a full description.
2. The aforementioned will be implemented by the Panamanian Administration at 0000 hours UTC on December 1, 2014, in reference to Circulars COLREG.2/Circ.65 and SN.1/Circ.326.
 3. The Panama Maritime Authority requests to all vessels to comply with the new Traffic Separation Schemes and the other routing measures in order to achieve a successful implementation.
 4. We take this opportunity to reassure the Panama Administration interest and commitment to the maritime industry and users around the world.

March, 2022 – Reference and contact update.
November, 2014.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

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