

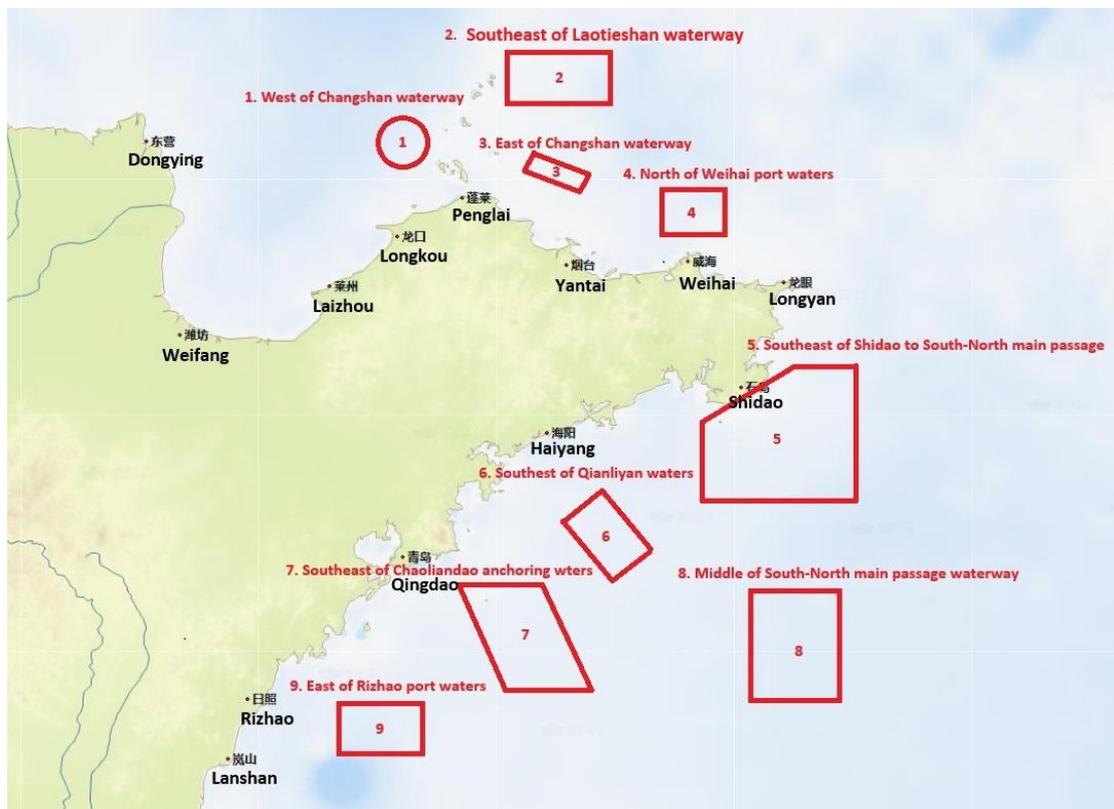
Date: 5 September 2023

Oasis Circular No.:2308

Subject: High risk water areas which are frequent locations of collision incidents between vessels and fishing boats in Bohai Sea and Yellow Sea

The fishing ban around Bohai Sea and Yellow Sea was lifted on 01 September 2023. Shandong MSA published a list of nine high risk water areas in Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea areas where vessels should strengthen lookout and maintain careful navigation to avoid collision with fishing boats. Shandong MSA also published a navigation alert (No.: SD419/23) on 29 August 2023 in this respect.

The nine areas are illustrated below with coordinates and their main risks.



Nine high risk areas in Bohai Sea and Yellow Sea

1. West of Changshan waterway, an area within a circle of a radius of seven nautical miles with its center at: 120°24' 9.00"E, 38° 5' 8.00"N.

Main risks: Intersection area for vessels from/to Tianjin, Huanghua, Binzhou, Dongying, Weifang, and Longkou ports of Bohai bay and Laizhou bay with quite a few fishing boats. About 5 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened in the past 10 years.

2. Southeast of Laotieshan waterway, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 120°59'47.00"E, 38°15'23.00"N;
- B. 121°36' 3.00"E, 38°15'23.00"N
- C. 121°36' 3.00"E, 38°30' 3.00"N
- D. 120°59'47.00"E, 38°30' 3.00"N

Main risks: Heavy traffic with vessels and fishing boats passing through. Besides, one passenger route within this area. About 7 collision incidents happened in this area in the past 10 years.

3. East of Changshan waterway, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 121° 5'34.00"E, 38° 0'37.00"N
- B. 121°24'57.00"E, 37°55'28.00"N
- C. 121°22'59.00"E, 37°50' 4.00"N
- D. 121° 3' 7.00"E, 37°55'53.00"N

Main risks: This area is located at the northern part of Yantai port west harbour, where vessels entering and/or leaving Yantai port and vessels passing through Changshan waterway will come through. In addition, many fishing boats operate in this area. About 4 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened and 1 collision incident between two merchant vessels also happened in the past 10 years in this area.

4. North of Weihai port waters, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 121°55' 5.00"E, 37°38'10.00"N
- B. 122°17'50.00"E, 37°38'10.00"N
- C. 122°17'49.00"E, 37°51'28.00"N
- D. 121°55' 4.00"E, 37°51'27.00"N

Main risks: This area is outside the coverage of Chengshantou VTS. Vessels passing through ship's routing area of Chengshantou to southern ports of Bohai Bay must transit through this area where there are many vessels and fishing boats. About 5 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened and 1 collision incident between two merchant vessels also happened in the past 10 years in this area.

5. Southeast of Shidao to South-North main passage, an area connected by the five coordinates:

- A. 122°39'43.00"E, 37° 0'42.00"N
- B. 123° 2'47.00"E, 37° 0'42.00"N
- C. 123° 2'47.00"E, 36°22' 6.00"N
- D. 122° 8'45.00"E, 36°22' 6.00"N
- E. 122° 8'45.00"E, 36°44'37.00"N

Main risks: Dense traffic in South-North main passage with mainly passing by vessels. Many fishing boats carry out operation in southeast of Shidao area, so there is a high risk of collision incidents. About 17 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened and 4 collision incidents between two merchant vessels also happened in the past 10 years in this area.

6. Southeast of Qianliyan waters, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 121°19'34.00"E, 36°16'37.00"N
- B. 121°33' 2.00"E, 36°25'13.00"N
- C. 121°51' 5.00"E, 36° 8' 9.00"N
- D. 121°37'37.00"E, 35°59'37.00"N

Main risks: This area is located at the junction of Yantai and Qingdao with sea routes from Chengshantou southern parts to Qingdao port. There are plenty of vessels and fishing boats which coming from/to Rushan fish farm or the T-shaped estuary. A new offshore wind power site is located in the northern part of this area, which makes the navigation environment more complex. About 3 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened in the past 10 years.

7. Southeast of Chaoliandao anchoring waters, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 120°43'17.00"E, 35°58'28.00"N
- B. 120°59' 9.00"E, 35°27' 8.00"N
- C. 121°28'58.00"E, 35°27'12.00"N
- D. 121°11'58.00"E, 35°58'36.00"N

Main risks: This area is outside the coverage of Qingdao VTS, where more than 7,000 vessels per year drop anchors before entering the ports. The long distance from shore makes it difficult to communicate smoothly via AIS. About 3 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened and 1 collision incident between two merchant vessels also happened in the past 10 years in this area.

8. Middle of South-North main passage waterway, an area connected by the four

coordinates:

- A. 122°26'31.00"E, 35°24' 8.00"N
- B. 122°58'30.00"E, 35°24' 8.00"N
- C. 122°58'30.00"E, 35°55'44.00"N
- E. 122°26'31.00"E, 35°55'44.00"N

Main risks: This area spans across the jurisdiction of Qingdao, Dongjiakou, and Rizhao and the shore based AIS cannot cover or effectively connect. There is a lot of merchant vessels passing by, as well as large fishing boats engaging in fishing operations or anchored in this area without maintaining proper lookout. Furthermore, the Rizhao - South Korea passenger route passes through this water area too. About 8 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened and 1 collision incident between two merchant vessels also happened in the past 10 years in this area.

9. East of Rizhao port waters, an area connected by the four coordinates:

- A. 120° 0'45.00"E, 35° 8'32.00"N
- B. 120°30' 5.00"E, 35° 8'32.00"N
- C. 120°30' 5.00"E, 35°23' 0.00"N
- D. 120° 0'45.00"E, 35°23' 0.00"N

Main risks: There are many vessels and fishing boats in the east water area of Shijiu port and Lanshan port of Rizhao. Fishing boats frequently navigate through channels and/or anchorage in the port area. As large tankers often anchor here, there is a high risk of collision between vessels and fishing boats under poor visibility. About 2 collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing boats happened in the past 10 years.

Suggestions

1. Get familiar with the starting times and ending times of the fishing ban periods. Carry out relevant safety training on the characteristics of fishing areas and fishing boats.
2. Avoid the traditional fish farms and fishing areas. When choosing a route, vessels shall be properly away from shore, apply the recommended routes carefully and strictly follow the relevant ship routing system.
3. Fully comply with relevant provisions of COLREGS 1972 and Safety Management System, ensure there is proper and sufficient lookout, keep a safe speed and take early avoidance actions.
4. In the process of avoiding fishing boats, ship officers shall consider the particular operational characteristics of the fishing boat involved. If effective radio

communication cannot be established between the vessel and the fishing boat, all other available means shall be used to warn the fishing boats of the risk of collision.

5. Be familiar with the safety guidelines for preventing collision between merchant ships and fishing boats in Chinese coastal waters issued by China MSA on 06 May 2021. (See attached our free English translation)

6. In case a collision incident occurs or is suspected to have occurred, rescue operation shall be immediately carried out taking into consideration various factors such as safety of the ship and her crews, the surrounding environment etc. Meanwhile, the ship shall contact the nearest VTS/MSA via VHF or their emergency telephone no. +86 12395 as soon as possible. The ship's agents, P&I Club and its correspondent should also be informed.

We hope the above is of assistance. If there is any query, please feel free to contact us at oasis@oasispandi.com anytime.

Best regards,

Oasis P&I Services Company Limited

Attachments:

Free English translation of Safety Guidelines issued by China MSA on 06 May 2021

Safety Guidelines for Preventing Collision between Merchant Ships and Fishing Boats in Chinese Coastal Waters

I. Navigational Method

1. Before entering the waters of high density of fishing boats

- 1) The master shall carefully review the planned route, use the recommended public route as far as possible to reasonably formulate the route, avoid the waters where fishing boats are concentrated, and reduce the chance of meeting with the fishing boats.
- 2) Check and test navigational equipment or aids such as radar, electronic chart, AIS, VDR, VHF, navigation lights and sound signals to ensure normal operation.
- 3) Make proper arrangement for navigation watch on the bridge. At any time, the bridge shall keep at least 2 navigation watch and lookout personnel.
- 4) The navigation safety precautions and corresponding actions in the fishing area shall be displayed at the prominent position on the bridge.

2. Passing or approaching the waters of high density of fishing boats

- 1) Navigators should keep in mind that safety is the first priority, take a deviation instead of taking risks! Try to avoid venturing into areas with many fishing boats!
- 2) Arrange personnel on duty reasonably, increase the number of navigation personnel on duty according to the density of surrounding fishing boats and the increased workload of navigation duty, and the master should be called to the bridge without hesitation when necessary.
- 3) The master shall formulate and issue night navigation orders according to the special warning requirements for night navigation in the fishing area.
- 4) The duty navigation watchman shall strengthen the lookout, turn on multiple radars, and strengthen the close and long distance observation. Do not rely too much on a single navigational aid. Each ship should always keep a constant lookout with vision, hearing and all effective means suitable for the current environment and circumstances.
- 5) Navigate at a safe speed.

6) Ensure that AIS information is correct and it is working normally.

7) Avoid fatigue and drunk navigating.

3. Special Precautions

1) The period after the fishing ban in the summer is lifted is the period with the highest density of fishing boats in China's coastal areas.

2. The period from 23:00 to 4:00 is the period of high incidence of collision accidents between merchant ships and fishing boats, and special attention should be paid.

3. Special attention shall be paid to the possibility that some fishing boats anchored at night may not have any one on duty, display lights or turn on AIS as required. Special attention should also be paid to the interference caused by a large number of fishing net's location signals to the ship's AIS, radar echoes and electronic charts.

4. If it is observed that the speed of the fishing boat is about 3 knots, the fishing boat is usually engaging in the fishing operation, and its maneuvering capacity is limited. It is necessary to coordinate with the fishing boat in terms of avoidance action as soon as possible, and it is best to keep a distance of more than 1 nautical mile.

5. Even if a merchant ship collides with a fishing boat slightly, the fishing boat may be damaged or capsize, and the personnel on the merchant ship may not be easily aware of it. Therefore, when passing a fishing boat at a close distance, it should be carefully observed to ensure that there is no collision, wave damage or suction.

6. It is recommended that ships from the southern waters of the South China Sea to the ports of Japan or South Korea and which are not to call at the coastal Chinese Mainland ports to sail in the waters on the east side of Taiwan, and stay as far away from the coastal waters of Chinese Mainland as possible.

II. Collision avoidance action

1. The collision avoidance rules shall be observed and the principle of "early, large, wide and clear" shall be adhered to. Try to call the fishing boat through VHF 16 channel in advance to coordinate the anti-collision action. If several call attempts receive no answer, it may mean that the VHF of the fishing boat is not in the watching status. During communication, the limitations of accent and language expression shall be fully considered to ensure that both parties understand each other's intention.

2. Watch out for collision caused by uncoordinated actions of fishing boats at close range. If a fishing boat is discovered and needs to be avoided in an emergency

situation, the searchlight can be flashed at least 5 times, or the continuous sound signal can be used to attract the attention of the fishing boat.

3. In case of urgent avoidance, in addition to using the rudder, slowing down the vessel's speed or stopping the engine shall also be considered at the same time.

4. The surrounding environment shall be fully considered as collision avoidance action to avoid creating an emergency situation with other ships.

III. Emergency rescue

1. When the collision is unavoidable, direct hit by the bow of the ship against the fishing boat shall be avoided as far as possible.

2. In case of collision, the ship shall be stopped immediately, the rescue of human life shall be the top priority, and the rescue shall be carried out with all efforts. Before all the people in danger are considered safe, as long as one's own safety is not seriously threatened, it is strictly prohibited to abandon the search and rescue or leave the scene. This act at sea which means giving up the life of other will face severe punishment by law! Don't take chances. With the help of current technologies, almost all the hit and run ships have been tracked down.

3. Immediately call the surrounding ships to participate in the rescue.

4. Immediately report to the nearest competent authority through all effective channels, including the location of the accident, the name of the ship in accident, casualties, damage to the ship or fishing boat, weather and sea conditions, rescue needs, etc.

Each person on watch duty should be familiar with the above contents.