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## TECHNICAL ALERT No. 16-14

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### Recommendations on Navigation through the Entrances to the Baltic Sea

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has noted an increase in recent months of reports from coastal States concerning the number of vessels not adhering to the recommendation provided within International Maritime Organization (IMO) Safety of Navigation circular SN.1/Circ.263 (*Routeing Measures other than Traffic Separation Schemes*) in regard to vessels navigating through the entrances to the Baltic Sea.
- 1.2. The BMA wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 2 to the attention of interested parties.

#### 2. Description

- 2.1. Paragraphs 1.9 and 1.14 of SN.1/Circ.263 make amendments to the recommendations on navigation through the entrances to the Baltic Sea. The IMO recommends use of pilotage from Skagen to Gedser and vice versa, for ships with a draught of 11 metres or more following Route T on their voyage through the entrances to the Baltic Sea.
- 2.2. The IMO Sailing Directions expresses an international acknowledgement of the fact that the entrances to the Baltic Sea are congested and difficult to navigate.
- 2.3. The entrances to the Baltic Sea between Gedser and Spodsbjerg are generally considered hazardous areas to navigate due to a combination of tide and meteorological conditions, together with unknown obstructions on the seabed and sand migration which could reduce the depth of navigable water. In addition the area can be susceptible to high levels of traffic density, particularly in the vicinity of Kadetrenden.

- 2.4. Masters of Bahamian ships are requested to take note of the above. It is highly recommended that ships with a draught of 11 metres or more use the pilotage services established by the coastal State on the entire passage from Gedser to Skagen and vice versa.

### **3. Validity**

- 3.1 This alert is valid until further notice.

### **4. Revision History**

Rev.0 (05 April 2016) – First issue