
China MSA - Updated Safety Advisories for Coastal Waters

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Technical Alert is issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) to bring a safety advisory on navigation in Chinese coastal waters to the attention of stakeholders.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of the People's Republic of China has requested flag States to share the communication provided in the Annex to this Alert.

3. China MSA Safety Advisory for Coastal Waters

- 3.1. The BMA has been approached by China MSA and requested to promulgate the following information.
- 3.2. Fishing activities have been partially resumed along China's coastline since August, and from 16 September, the fishing season will recommence on a full scale. Consequently, traffic density in China's coastal waters is expected to increase significantly, with a large number of fishing vessels departing from ports, thereby exerting considerable pressure on navigational safety.
- 3.3. To ensure safe navigation during this period, China MSA has updated the <Safety Advisories for Vessels Navigating China's Coastal Waters> (please see Annex).
- 3.4. The Advisories are being circulated to enhance understanding of the complex traffic conditions in the affected areas, raise awareness among seafarers—particularly masters and deck officers—of the importance of proper watch-keeping, and strengthen crew preparedness for collision prevention.

4. Validity

- 4.1. This Technical Alert is valid until further notice.

ANNEX - Safety Advisories for Vessels Navigating China's Coastal Waters

Safety Advisories for Vessels Navigating China's Coastal Waters

Since the opening of the 2025 fishing season, there has been an increase in collisions and near-miss incidents between merchant and fishing vessels in China's coastal waters. Risks have become more prominent. To prevent incidents and ensure navigation safety, the following advisories are issued:

1. Enhance Collision Prevention Training for Merchant and Fishing Vessels. Through channels such as ship agents, extensively gather accident prevention information including high-risk warning areas for collisions between commercial and fishing vessels, and operational characteristics of fishing vessels. Urge all crew members to study relevant documents such as "Guidelines for the Prevention of Collision Between Merchant Vessels and Fishing Vessels in China's Coastal Waters" and "Safety Notice for Preventing Collisions between Commercial and Fishing Vessels". Crew members must fully understand these high-risk areas and best practices for preventing collisions between merchant and fishing vessels.

2. Develop Scientific Navigational Plans. Given the current season of frequent typhoons and strong convective storms, fishing vessels tend to frequently enter and leave ports in large numbers due to adverse weather conditions. Please urge vessels to strengthen their safety risk assessment for each voyage, based on the safety information released by China MSA. Develop scientific navigational plans and collision prevention measures, and use recommended routes and main public routes in China whenever possible. Avoid traffic flows where fishing vessels are concentrated during port entry and exit.

3. Conduct Safety Inspections of Critical Equipment Onboard. Please urge all vessels to inspect and test the following systems and devices: main engine, auxiliary engine, steering gear, windlass, boiler, radar, electronic chart, AIS, VDR, VHF, as well as navigation lights, daytime signal lights, and other sound signal equipment. Ensure all

systems are in good working order and readily available for immediate use.

4. Strictly Enforce Watchkeeping Requirements. Please urge vessels to switch autopilot to manual steering when navigating in areas with dense fishing boats, maintain a proper lookout with at least two persons on watch. Whenever condition permits, try to maintain a distance of at least 1 nautical mile and remain alert. During navigation, vessels encountering fishing vessels that are unresponsive on VHF calls or have unclear movements must take proactive avoiding actions, following the principle of "early, substantial, wide, and clear." For newly appointed masters or those navigating China's coastal waters for the first time, special safety advisories must be provided with consideration of the specific characteristics of fishing vessels in these areas.

5. Enhance Emergency Training and Drills. Please organize vessels to conduct maintenance and operation training of facilities and equipment for man overboard and vessel abandon procedures, thereby effectively enhance the crew's self-rescue and mutual-rescue capabilities in emergencies. In the event of an emergency at sea, vessels must, while ensuring their own safety, actively engage in rescue operations and report to the local Maritime Rescue Coordination Center promptly.