

## Revised Pilotage Requirements for Torres Strait

On 22 July 2005, the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee approved the extension of the Great Barrier Reef Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) to include the Torres Strait. As one of the associated protective measures for the area, the Committee also adopted Australia's proposal to extend the system of pilotage within the Great Barrier Reef to the Torres Strait. Australia has operated a system of compulsory pilotage within the Great Barrier Reef since 1991. Amendments to the Commonwealth Navigation Act 1912 make it an offence under new section 186I to navigate in a compulsory pilotage area without a pilot. A new compulsory pilotage area for the Torres Strait will be specified in Marine Orders Part 54 and further details of that area are reproduced below. Under the new requirements the Act will require the pilot to provide a certificate to the master in the approved form specifying details about the completed piloted voyage before disembarking the ship. Such a certificate will provide an owner and master evidence that they engaged a pilotage service and complied with the compulsory pilotage requirements of the Act. In certain circumstances, a master or owner may apply to AMSA to seek an exemption from the requirement to navigate with a pilot in a compulsory pilotage area. The compulsory pilotage requirements under the Act and Marine Orders Part 54 will complement the existing pilotage requirements under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 concerning pilotage through the Great Barrier Reef. The new requirements concerning pilotage will commence on 06 October 2006. Owners, operators, or Masters of vessels which routinely use Torres Strait routes, but are not currently engaging pilots to do so, are encouraged to make at least two piloted transits before 06 October. This will allow the masters to become familiar with the pilots' operating procedures.

### Application

Marine Orders Part 54 specifies the Torres Strait as a Compulsory Pilotage Area in the following terms, The Torres Strait Pilotage Area is bound on the south by the line of latitude 10° 41' S, and on the north by Australia's EEZ, and divided into the following two parts:  
Torres Strait Pilotage Area A is bound by the longitudes 141° 50' E and 142° 05' E.

Torres Strait Pilotage Area B is bound by the longitudes 142° 05' E and 143° 24' E.

All vessels of 70 metres or more in overall length, and all loaded tankers, chemical tankers and liquefied gas carriers, except defence force vessels, when transiting through Torres Strait Pilotage Area A with a draught of 8 metres or more must have a pilot on board.

All vessels (irrespective of draught) of 70 metres or more in overall length, and all loaded tankers, chemical tankers and liquefied gas carriers, except defence force vessels, when transiting through Torres Strait Pilotage Area B must have a pilot on board.

### Pilot Boarding Places PBP

See Chart

Masters of east-bound vessels with a draught of less than 8 metres can request the services of a pilot from Booby Island if they wish to do so.

### Navigation

Vessels embarking a pilot for a transit of Torres Strait must carry the following Aus charts fully corrected to the latest Notices to Mariners:

Aus 289, Aus 292, Aus 293, Aus 296, Aus 839 and Aus 840.

Vessels relying on ECDIS must use the following ENC cells produced by the Australian Hydrographic Office:

AU 411141, AU 499142, AU 411143, AU 410143, AU 410144.

## CONTACTS

Further information may obtain by contacting the ADF as follows:

Mail: Maritime Headquarters Australia  
14-18 Wylde Street  
Potts Point  
NSW 2011

Attention:  
NCAGS Coordinator,  
MC-JOC Operations

Facsimile: Maritime Headquarters Australia  
**+61 2 9359 4195**

Attention:  
NCAGS Coordinator,  
MC-JOC Operations

Telephone: (NCAGS Coordinator /  
Duty Shipping Officer)  
**+61 2 9359 4135**

Email. **dshipo@defence.gov.au**

## Submarines

Information concerning submarines and signals used by them are published in Australian Annual Notices to Mariners.

Australia operates six Collins Class submarines, home ported in Fremantle. Allied submarines often visit the region.

The overall arrangement of lights on submarines is unusual and may give the impression of a markedly smaller and shorter vessel. Caution should be exercised when approaching submarines. Nearly all submarines are fitted with an amber quick-flashing light situated above or abaft the main steaming light. Collins Class submarines exhibit a very quick flashing light (120 flashes per minute) and normally exhibit this when entering or leaving harbour at night. Care should be taken not to confuse this light with that of an air cushion vehicle operating in non-displacement mode.

## Transfer Operations at Sea and in Coastal Waters

Reference: AMSA Marine Notices 6/2002

The practice of transfers at sea is commonplace in some designated areas overseas, where special precautions are taken to counter the associated risks of collision and pollution. No areas have been designated off the Australian coast for such purposes and the practice of using random locations to suit commercial requirements is viewed with concern.

AMSA, as the Commonwealth authority responsible for maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ship-sources is anxious to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken whenever a ship-to-ship transfer of persons, cargo or other goods is undertaken at sea or in the vicinity of the Australian coast or within port limits.

Information should include: the date and place of the proposed transfer, full details of the ships involved, the purpose of the transfer, whether other craft (such as tugs) are to be in attendance and what equipment is to be provided to assist in manoeuvring and cargo transfer.

To this end, it is requested that early advice be forwarded to AMSA if such operations are intended.

Notifications for this purpose should be directed to:

General Manager  
Maritime Operations  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
PO Box 2181  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6279 5935  
Fax: 02 6279 5071

and to the appropriate AMSA area office.