

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 04-24

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE SPEED RESTRICTION ZONES

Date: 11 March 2024

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) supersedes MSA No. 16-21.

In addition to the mandatory Seasonal Management Areas, the United States (US) Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has established voluntary Right Whale Slow Zones and Dynamic Management Areas (DMA) off the East coast of the US to reduce the likelihood of right whale collisions with vessels. These temporary zones are established following sightings of North Atlantic right whales in a specific area. NOAA encourages vessels to avoid Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs or reduce speeds to 10 knots or less. Additionally, NOAA strongly recommends that vessels maintain a vigilant watch for North Atlantic right whale activity while transiting through these zones.

Republic of the Marshall Islands-flagged vessels are reminded that failing to comply with NOAA's voluntary Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs may impact a vessel's ability to qualify for the US Coast Guard's E-Zero program.

NOAA has issued its *Compliance Guide for Right Whale Ship Strikes Reduction Rule* ([50 CFR 224.105](#)), which provides a summary of the mandatory and voluntary requirements relating to North Atlantic right whale collision avoidance. Additional information regarding these regulations, as well as a list of current Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs, can be found [here](#).

This MSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.