

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

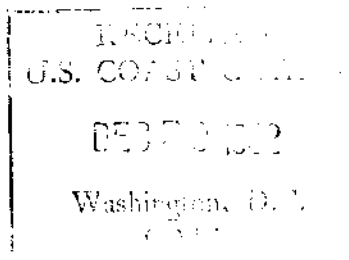
117 EMBANKMENT,
LONDON SE1 7SR

no: 01-735 7811
no: INTERMAR-LONDON SE1
23588



IMO

SN/Circ.111
1 December 1982



ref. T2/2.07

SHIPPING ROUTES IN NORTH EASTERN AUSTRALIAN WATERS

At the request of the Government of Australia the following information on a two-way route in north eastern Australian waters is brought to the attention of Member Governments.

For many years nautical charts of the more confined areas within the Great Barrier Reef have shown recommended tracks. In recent years there has been some criticism of showing a single line track on the grounds that it has tended to concentrate shipping on a single line and thus increase the risk of collision.

Because traffic on the routes is light and because ships hampered by their draught should be free to use the best water, it is not appropriate to introduce traffic separation schemes as an alternative to the single line track.

However, to retain some of the advantages of a recommended track without its disadvantages, a two-way route has now been developed. The route is almost 500 miles in length and lies between the Western entrance to Torres Strait and position latitude $16^{\circ}23$ South, longitude $145^{\circ}36.5$ East.

The purpose of the two-way route is to indicate to navigators of medium draught ships a safe and convenient route. Its use is not compulsory and indeed in some places deeper draught ships will be obliged to depart from the two-way route to obtain better water.

The two-way route is in many places within the Australian territorial sea of three nautical miles and in no place is more than 12 nautical miles from Australian territorial sea baselines.

The two-way route will be implemented on 1 September 1983 by which date Australian charts showing full details will be available.