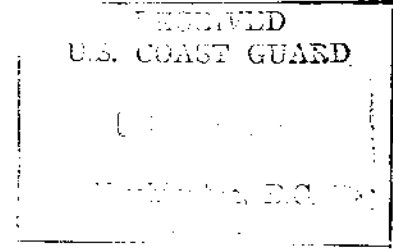




SN/Circ.70
8 October 1974

FILE



IMCO

Ref. T2/2.07

NEWARP/CROSS SANDS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

1. The Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-first session was informed by the Government of the United Kingdom that recent hydrographic surveys have shown that significant shoaling has occurred in the south-bound lane of the Newarp/Cross Sands Traffic Separation Scheme and that this is an area of sand waves. Depths in the fairway are up to a fathom less than previously charted and there is clearly a potential danger in continuing to recommend that ships use shallower water than is available to them outside the limits of the scheme; there is considerably deeper water outside the western limits.
 2. The Committee was further informed that the following steps have been, or will be taken by the United Kingdom to minimize the danger to shipping:
 - (a) the new shoal depths in the area have been promulgated by radio-navigational warnings and a Notice to Mariners has been issued;
 - (b) the scheme will be deleted from the Collision Regulations (Traffic Separation Schemes) Order, 1972;
 - (c) the scheme will be removed from British Admiralty charts and a Notice to Mariners will be issued advising that the scheme is no longer recommended for use by British ships.
 3. In view of the potential danger in continuing to recommend ships to use the above scheme, the Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly the cancellation of the scheme in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Assembly Resolution A.284(VIII).
 4. At the request of the Committee the above is brought to the attention of all Member Governments for whatever action they may wish to take.
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