

PACIFIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Date Issued: 01 September 2022 (updated April 30, 2024)

Notice Number: 03/2022

Subject: British Columbia North Coast Waterway Management Guidelines: information for mariners and waterway users

Geographic Area: North Coast, waterways between Kitimat and Browning Entrance

Details:

The North Coast Waterway Management Guidelines are voluntary guidelines that aim to improve safety on the water by reducing conflicts between First Nations marine use activities, such as fishing and shoreline harvesting, and commercial navigation between Kitimat and Browning Entrance on British Columbia's North Coast. These include Douglas Channel, Wright Sound, Lewis Passage, Otter Channel, Nepean Sound and Principe Channel (see map below).

Nothing in these guidelines supersedes or alters the requirements of applicable Canadian and international laws and regulations, including the Collision Regulations. Furthermore, nothing in these guidelines prevents or restricts the master and pilot of a ship from taking or executing any decision which, in the master and pilot's professional judgement, is necessary to ensure the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment.

The attached guidelines contain four main sections:

1. Guidelines for **all vessels** including inshore safety zones, routing measures, speed reductions, guidelines for meeting and passing, a special operating area in Wright Sound, and guidelines in the event of mechanical or electrical breakdown.
2. Guidelines for **large commercial ships** which include bulk carriers, general cargo ships, liquid bulk ships, and passenger vessels.
3. Guidelines for **tugs and barges**.
4. **First Nations Areas of Concern (AOC)** in which a higher level of care is required to ensure safe transits by local community users due to local conditions and activities.

The guidelines came into effect on September 1, 2022, and are reviewed periodically. [Read the complete set of guidelines here.](#)

For queries, please contact the PPA at marineops@ppa.gc.ca.

