

U.S. Coast Pilots

U.S. Mandatory Ship Reporting Systems (WHALESNORTH and WHALESSOUTH)

The U.S. Coast Guard will commence operation of two ship reporting systems (WHALESNORTH and WHALESSOUTH) on July 1, 1999. These systems are mandatory and will require all vessels, 300 gross tons or greater, to report to the U.S. Coast Guard prior to entering two designated reporting areas off the east coast of the United States. These reporting systems comply with criteria set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and were adopted by IMO Resolution A.858(20) in accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS 74). Sovereign immune vessels are exempt from the requirement to report, but are encouraged to participate.

The two reporting systems will operate independently of each other. The system in the northeastern United States will operate year round and the system in the southeastern United States will operate each year from November 15 through April 15. Reporting ships are only required to make reports when entering a reporting area during a single voyage (that is, a voyage in which a ship is in the area to visit one or more ports or traverse the area enroute a port outside the reporting area). Ships are not required to report when leaving a port in the reporting area nor when exiting the system. No commercially sensitive information is required.

1. Areas of Coverage

a. WHALESNORTH

–The geographical boundaries of the northeast reporting system include the waters of Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and the Great South Channel east and southeast of Massachusetts. Coordinates of the proposed area are as follows: from a point on Cape Ann, Massachusetts at 42°39'.00N, 70°37'.00W; then northeast to 42°45'.00N, 70°13'.00W; then southeast to 42°10'.00N, 68°31'.00W; then south to 41°00'.00N, 68°31'.00W; then west to 41°00'.00N, 69°17'.00W; then northeast to 42°05'.00N, 70°02'.00W; then west to 42°04'.00N, 70°10'.00W; and then along the Massachusetts shoreline of Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bay back to the point on Cape Ann at 42°39'.00N, 70°37'.00W. NOAA Chart No. 13009.

b. WHALESSOUTH

– The geographical boundaries of the southeast reporting system include coastal waters within about 25 nautical miles along a 90 nautical mile stretch of the Atlantic seaboard in Florida and Georgia. The area extends from the shoreline east to longitude 80°51'.60W with the southern and northern boundaries at latitudes 30°00'.00N and 31°27'.00N, respectively. NOAA Chart No. 11009.

2. Method of Reporting

- a. Vessels transiting MSR reporting areas are required to report their course, speed, position, destination, and route to the U.S. Coast Guard upon entry into the reporting area. Vessels should report via INMARSAT C to one of the following addresses:

Email: RightWhale.MSR@noaa.gov or Telex: 236737831

- b. Vessels not equipped with INMARSAT C should report via alternate satellite communications equipment to one of the following addresses:

Email: RightWhale.MSR@noaa.gov or Telex: 236737831

- c. Vessels unable to use satellite communications equipment should contact the U.S. Coast Guard Communication Area Master Station Chesapeake VA via SITOR/NBDP on 8426.3 khz, 12590.8 khz, 16817.8 khz twenty four hours per day, or 6314.3 khz from 2300 GMT until 1100 GMT and 22387.8 khz from 1100 GMT until 2300 GMT.
- d. Vessels unable to use satellite communications or SITOR/NBDP should contact the U.S. Coast Guard Communication Area Master Station Chesapeake VA via published voice frequencies.

3. Reporting Instructions

- a. Vessels shall make reports in accordance with the format in IMO Resolution A.648(16) General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements. Vessels shall report the following information:

Paragraph	Function	Information Required
System name	System identifier	Ship reporting system name (whalesnorth or whalessouth).
M	INMARSAT number	Vessel INMARSAT number
A	Ship	Vessel name and call sign.
B	Date, time, and month of report	Six digit group giving day of month and time, single letter indicating time zone, and three letters indicating month.
E	True course	3-digit number indicating true course.
F	Speed in knots and tenths	3-digit group indicating knots and tenths.
H	Date, time, and point of entry into system	Date and time expressed as in (B) and latitude and longitude expressed as a four digit group giving latitude, the letter N indicating north, followed by a / , a five digit group giving longitude, and the letter W indicating west.
I	Destination and ETA	Name of port and arrival time expressed as in (B).
L	Route information	Route information should be reported as direct rhumbline to port (RL) and intended speed or a series of way points (WP). Vessels reporting waypoints should include latitude and longitude, expressed as in (H), and intended speed between waypoints. For vessels transiting within a traffic separation scheme (TSS), give only the WP on entry and departure of TSS.

4. Example Reports

a. WHALESNORTH

– TO: RightWhale.MSR@noaa.gov

WHALESNORTH//

M/487654321//

A/CALYPSO/NRUS//

B/031401Z APR//

E/345//

F/15.5//

H/031410Z APR/4104N/06918W//

I/BOSTON/032345Z APR//

L/WP/4104N/06918W/15.5//

L/WP/4210N/06952W/15.5//

L/WP/4230N/07006W/15.5//

b. WHALESSOUTH

– TO: RightWhale.MSR@noaa.gov

WHALESSOUTH//

M/412345678//

A/BEAGLE/NVES//

B/270810Z MAR//

E/250//

F/17.0//

H/270810Z MAR/3030N/08052W//

I/MAYPORT/271215Z MAR//

L/RL/17.0//