

NAVIGATIONAL RULES

1. Traffic Routes

When navigating in the traffic routes vessels shall:

Bisan Seto East: keep to the right of the center line

Uko East: navigate northbound only

Uko West: navigate southbound only

Bisan Seto North: navigate westbound only

Bisan Seto South: navigate eastbound only

Mizushima: keep as far as possible and applicable to the right side of the passage.

2. Compulsory Transit of Traffic Routes

Vessels of 50m and over in length shall navigate in the traffic route when transiting the VTS zone.

3. Speed Limit

Vessels shall not navigate at a speed of more than 12 knots through the designated water.

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4. Right of way

Vessels (except a very large vessel) shall keep out of the way of very large vessels in the routes and vessels navigating along the routes.

5. Destination information on AIS

Vessels navigating in the VTS area shall transmit the AIS code of the destination port in order to inform other vessels of their intended route.

SERVICES AND NAVIGATION REGULATIONS

1. Application of Message Marker

The following Message Markers are used by BISAN MARTIS to improve the clarity of VHF Communication.

①INFORMATION ②WARNING ③ADVICE ④INSTRUCTION

2. Navigational Advice

BISAN MARTIS provides advice for specific vessels to take any necessary action when it is found that a vessel is in a dangerous situation or it is deemed necessary to remind a vessel to follow the navigational rules.

3. Navigational Instructions

BISAN MARTIS instructs very large vessels and others to stand by outside the traffic routes when visibility is 2,000m or less.

4. Traffic Signals for Mizushima Traffic Route

Traffic Signal Stations are located on Mitsuko-shima (34°22'19"N, 133°49'23"E and 34°22'18"N, 133°49'21"E) and Nishi-no-Saki (34°26'09"N, 133°47'12"E)

Meaning of Signals:

"N": A very large vessel is navigating, or will shortly navigate, in the Mizushima Traffic Route northbound. A vessel of 70 meters and over in length (except a very large vessel) which intends to navigate in the Mizushima Traffic Route southbound shall stand-by outside of the traffic route.

"S": A very large vessel is navigating, or will shortly navigate, in the Mizushima Traffic Route southbound. A vessel of 70 meters and over in length (except a very large vessel) which intends to navigate in the Mizushima Traffic Route northbound shall stand-by outside of the traffic route.

In the vicinity of the traffic route

Vessels entering or leaving the traffic route should not alter their course in areas close to entrances or exits of the traffic route. Vessels should not cross the traffic route in the vicinity of the entrances or exits of the traffic route.