



SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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Subject: **British Columbia North Coast Waterway Management Guidelines**

This bulletin replaces Ship Safety Bulletin No. 24/2022

Purpose

This bulletin is to advise vessel owners and operators about the North Coast Waterway Management Guidelines which came into effect on September 1, 2022.

Scope

This bulletin applies to all vessels navigating on the route between Kitimat and Browning Entrance. This area includes:

- Douglas Channel
- Wright Sound
- Lewis Passage
- Otter Channel
- Nepean Sound, and
- Principe Channel

Background

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,

Keywords:

1. North Coast
2. waterway management guidelines
3. Areas of concern

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

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Contact us at: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free).

such as fishing and shoreline harvesting, and commercial vessels on the shipping route between Kitimat and Browning Entrance.

What you need to know

The guidelines came into effect on **September 1, 2022**, and will be reviewed from time to time.

- [Read the new guidelines – Updated September 2023](#)

Nothing in these guidelines replaces or changes how we apply any Canadian or international laws or regulations, including the *Collision Regulations*.

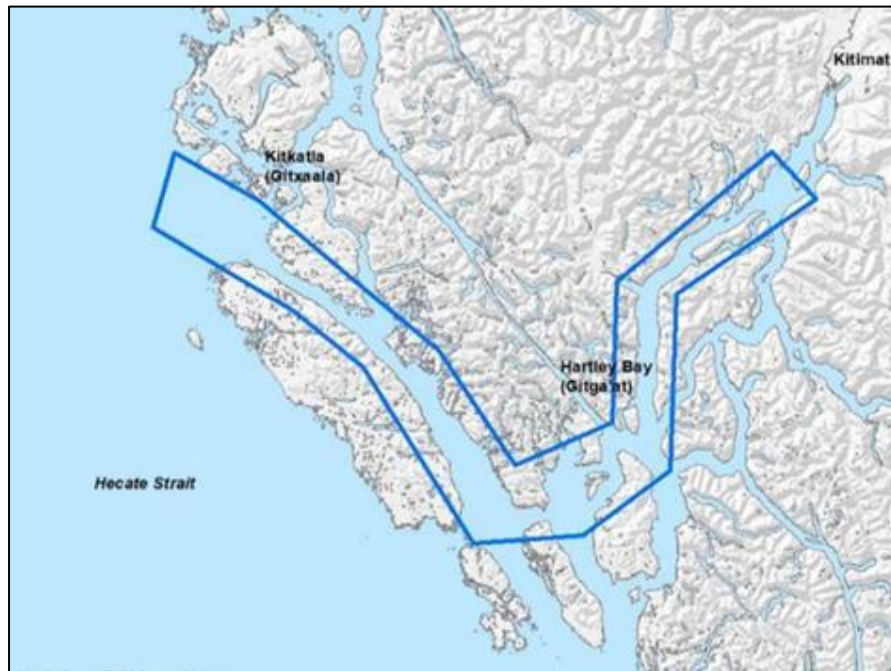
Nothing in these guidelines prevents or limits the master or pilot of a vessel from making any decisions to protect the vessel, the crew, or the marine environment.

The guidelines contain information for:

- **all vessels**, relating to:
 - inshore safety zones
 - routing measures
 - speed reductions
 - guidelines for meeting and passing
 - a special operating area in Wright Sound, and
 - guidelines in case of a mechanical or electrical breakdown
- **large commercial vessels**, including bulk carriers, general cargo vessels, liquid bulk vessels, and passenger vessels.
- **tugs and barges**, and
- vessels operating in **First Nations Areas of Concern**.

Masters of vessels operating in First Nation Areas of Concern must pay special attention to make sure local community users can transit and use the area safely.

Map of area where the guidelines apply. The area is made up of waterways between Kitimat and Browning Entrance including Douglas Channel, Wright Sound, Lewis Passage, Otter Channel, Nepean Sound and Principe Channel.



Questions?

If you have questions or comments about this ship safety bulletin, please email us: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca