

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT,
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: 071-735 7611
Telegrams: INTERMAR-LONDON SE1
Telex: 23588
Telefax: 071-587 3210



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INFORMATION ON A SHIP REPORTING SYSTEM IN THE OLD BAHAMA CHANNEL

As requested by the Government of Cuba, the following information is brought to the attention of Member Governments.

Resolution No.M.89-4 on the ship reporting system in the Old Bahama Channel, which was circulated by SN/Circ.141 of 3 May 1989, has been replaced by resolution No.74-92 issued by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba, attached at annex.

The Government of Cuba has stated that the new ship movement message format for the Old Bahama Channel, annexed to the above resolution, is consistent with Assembly resolution A.648(16) - General principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements including guidelines for reporting incidents involving dangerous goods, harmful substances and/or marine pollutants.

ANNEX**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT****RESOLUTION NO.74-92**

WHEREAS: in accordance with the provisions of article 82 of Decree-Law 67 of 19 April 1983 "On the organization of the central administration of the State", as amended by Decree-Law 85 of 12 June 1985, the Ministry of Transport is the body responsible for directing, implementing and monitoring the implementation of the policy of the State and of the Government with regard to land-based, maritime and river transport, its auxiliary or related services and maritime civil navigation;

WHEREAS: resolution No.M-89-4, dated 30 January 1989, promulgated by the Ministry of Transport in accordance with a decision approved by the forty-eighth session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the proposal submitted by the Republic of Cuba referring to traffic separation schemes in its territorial waters, including international channels and straits included therein, establishes matters relating to such schemes and to their monitoring or observation as well as to information;

WHEREAS: the experience acquired in the implementation of the aforesaid resolution indicates the desirability of amending it and particularly of clarifying all those matters relating to the ship movement message format in the Old Bahama Channel;

THEREFORE: in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by paragraphs (q) and (r) of article 53 of Decree-Law 67 of 19 April 1983 "On the organization of the central administration of the State";

I RESOLVE:

FIRST: the maritime traffic separation schemes at the points on the north coast of the island of Cuba in force with effect from 00.00 hours of 1 June 1989, in accordance with the provisions of resolution No.M-89-4 dated 30 January 1989 of the Ministry of Transport, are those listed below:

- Off Cabo de San Antonio
- Off La Tabla
- Off Costa de Matanzas
- In the Old Bahama Channel
- Off Punta Maternillos
- Off Punta Lucrecia
- Off Punta Maisi

The description and geographical position of the schemes listed above are those which appear in the publication of the International Maritime Organization entitled "Ships' Routing", part B, section IX, fifth edition, London 1984.

SECOND: the radio stations providing information and advice to mariners concerning dangers to navigation, as well as those monitoring the movement of ships shall be as follows:

- In the western approach to the Old Bahama Channel traffic separation scheme:

Station: Caimán
Call sign: CLG-5 Caimán
Frequency: 156.650 MHz (channel 13)
Date of entry into service: 1 June 1989.

- In the eastern approach to the Old Bahama Channel traffic separation scheme:

Station: Confites
Call sign: CLG-60 Confites
Frequency: 156.650 MHz (channel 13)
Date of entry into service: 1 June 1989.

THIRD: every ship in a position to do so is requested to report to the radio station situated at the western or eastern approach to the Old Bahama Channel, as appropriate, two hours prior to beginning transit of the Channel, the data set out in the annex attached to this resolution which forms an integral part of it; a listening watch shall be maintained on the frequency of that station (channel 13) throughout the time when the ship is navigating in the traffic separation scheme.

The information requested in the aforementioned annex (ship movement message format for the Old Bahama Channel), and any communication relating to maritime damage or casualties occurring during the transit of the scheme or other communication addressed to one of the radio stations or naval units of the monitoring service, shall be transmitted in the Spanish or English language.

FOURTH: maritime navigation in the other traffic separation schemes on the north coast of the island of Cuba shall be observed from shore-based control points and from naval units to which such functions have been assigned.

The said control points and naval units shall not call for any information for purposes of transit through such traffic separation schemes, except in the event of an infringement by shipping in those schemes or other type of infringement of national legislation.

FIFTH: resolution No.M-89-4 of 30 January 1989, promulgated by the Ministry of Transport, is repealed, together with any provisions of the same or a lower normative category which conflict with or restrict the provisions of the present resolution which shall come into force with effect from its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

SIXTH: the present resolution is communicated to the vice ministers, the Inspector General of Transport and to the Directors of the Central Apparatus who need to be aware of it, to the Unión Marítimo-Portuaria, to natural and juridical persons that are shipowners or ship operators, to the firm Consignataria Mambisa, to the Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces, to the Ministry of the Interior, to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, to the Ministry of the Fishing Industry, to the Ministry of Justice, to the Public Prosecutor of the Republic, to the Revolutionary Navy, to the General Directorate of Frontier Guards, to the Cuban Institute of Hydrography and to other appropriate natural or juridical persons.

The Director of Maritime Safety and Ship Inspection of the Ministry of Transport shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the provisions of the present resolution.

For publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic for general information.

Done in the City of Havana, on 12 June 1992.

"Year 34 of the Revolution".

SENEN CASAS REGUEIRO
GENERAL DE DIVISION

ANNEX

SHIP MOVEMENT MESSAGE FORMAT FOR THE OLD BAHAMA CHANNEL

System identifier: OLDBACHA

Type of message : Sailing Plan

Traffic direction: EAST/WEST

The word EAST to identify ships navigating in the Channel from east to west and the word WEST for ships navigating in the Channel from west to east.

Ship
(alpha)

A - Type of ship, name, flag and call sign.

Time
(bravo)

B - A 6-digit group giving day of month (first 2 digits), hours and minutes in UTC (last 4 digits).

Position
(charlie)

C - A 4-digit group giving latitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with N (North) and a 5-digit group giving longitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with W (West).

Speed
(foxtrot)

F - A 3-digit group giving the speed in knots and tenths of knots.

Entry
(hotel)

H - A 4-digit group giving the time (hours and minutes) of entry into the traffic separation scheme.

Cargo
(papa)

P - Type of cargo (only for ships carrying oil, gas and chemicals in bulk).

Remarks
(X-ray)

X - For ships or tugs pulling a tow or with a restricted ability to manoeuvre.