

MARINE SAFETY/SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 21-01



10 May 2021

U. S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco
Department of Homeland Security

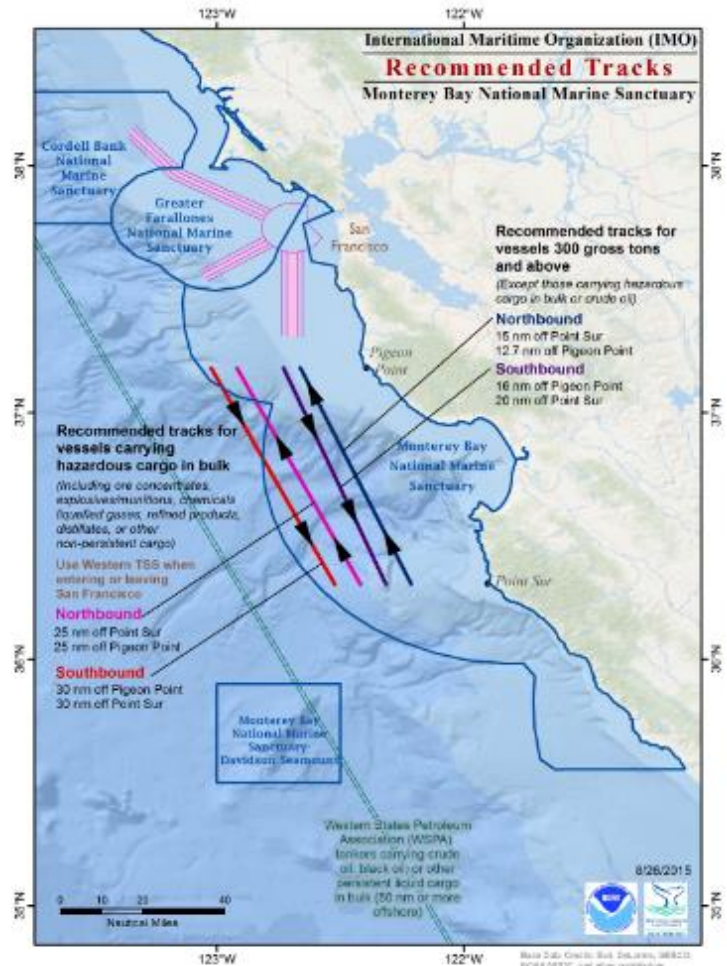


IMO Recommended Tracks in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

US Coast Guard, NOAA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) established Recommended Tracks in NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) in 2000 to enhance the safety and navigation of large vessels (over 300 gross tons) and oil tankers transiting through the sanctuary, as well as to protect sensitive marine environments. Use of the IMO Recommended Tracks will reduce the risk of a spill or collision in a national marine sanctuary and allow a rescue tug to respond should the ship have an emergency. It is recommended that laden tankers transit 50 miles offshore and use the western TSS when entering or leaving San Francisco.

Exceptions may occur including avoidance of buoys, inclement weather and mechanical issues, yet without extenuating circumstances, USCG and NOAA anticipate oil tankers and cargo vessels are aware of and use the IMO Recommended Tracks.

If a vessel is not permitted to enter the Port of San Francisco (SF) for anchorage immediately, it's strongly encouraged vessels stay offshore and west of the IMO Recommended Tracks while waiting for entry into the SF Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).



Compliance with the IMO Recommended Tracks and this Bulletin will reduce the risk of an incident or marine casualty occurrence in a sensitive marine environment. If you have any questions, please contact the Sector San Francisco Waterways Safety Branch Chief, LT Anthony Solares, at (415) 399-3585.

M. B. BYRD
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port