



Marine Notice 06/2022 Supersedes 2015/10

Coastal Pilotage

Purpose

This Marine Notice reminds vessel masters, owners and operators about the coastal pilotage requirements that apply within the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait, as prescribed in *Marine Order 54 (Coastal pilotage) 2014 (MO54)*.

Background

In accordance with the *Navigation Act 2012*, vessels over 70 metres in length, loaded oil tankers, loaded chemical carriers, and loaded liquefied gas carriers (irrespective of length) are required to embark a licensed coastal pilot when transiting any of the prescribed compulsory coastal pilotage areas.

Significant penalties may apply for navigating in any of the coastal pilotage areas without an AMSA-licensed coastal pilot onboard.

Naval vessels are excluded from the compulsory coastal pilotage requirements under the Navigation Act.

It is important to note that the master of a vessel is not relieved of responsibility for the conduct and safe navigation of the vessel whilst the vessel is under pilotage — see section 326 of the Navigation Act.

Coastal pilotage areas

The following areas are prescribed compulsory pilotage areas under MO54:

- Hydrographers Passage;
- Inner Route;
- Torres Strait;
- Great North East Channel; and
- Whitsundays.

Coastal pilotage area definitions and boundaries (WGS84)

Hydrographers Passage pilotage area means the area bounded by a line that progressively joins the following points:

Point:	Latitude:	Longitude:
1.	20° 39.11'S	149° 49.36'E
2.	20° 35.91'S	150° 07.36'E
3.	20° 28.31'S	150° 18.06'E
4.	20° 02.91'S	150° 03.06'E
5.	19° 54.91'S	150° 16.56'E

6.	19° 39.91'S	150° 10.56'E
7.	19° 50.91'S	150° 33.06'E
8.	20° 01.41'S	150° 25.86'E
9.	20° 06.91'S	150° 17.26'E
10.	20° 19.91'S	150° 27.06'E
11.	20° 32.91'S	150° 27.06'E
12.	20° 41.51'S	150° 11.66'E
13.	20° 54.41'S	150° 01.96'E
14.	20° 39.11'S	149° 49.36'E

Inner Route pilotage area means the waters bounded by:

- a. the Australian mainland; and
- b. the outer eastern edge of the Great Barrier Reef Region*; and
- c. the northern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Region* (latitude 10° 41.00'S); and
- d. latitude 16° 39.91'S; and
- e. the Torres Strait, excluding the waters to the north of latitude 10° 28.00'S and east of longitude 142° 39.00'E.

* *Great Barrier Reef Region* has the meaning given by section 3 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Torres Strait means the waters bounded:

- a. on the south by latitude 10° 41.00'S; and
- b. on the east:
 - i. for a ship moving eastward - by longitude 143° 22.00'E; or
 - ii. for any other vessel - by longitude 143° 24.00'E; and
- c. on the north by the line of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and
- d. on the west:
 - i. for a vessel of less than 8m draught - by longitude 142° 05.00'E; or
 - ii. for a vessel of 8m draught or more moving eastward - by longitude 141° 50.00'E; or
 - iii. for a vessel of 8m draught or more moving westward - by longitude 141° 51.70'E.

Great North East Channel pilotage area means the area bounded by a line that progressively joins the following points:

Point:	Latitude:	Longitude:
1.	10° 41.0'S	141° 50.0'E
2.	10° 28.0'S	141° 50.0'E
3.	10° 28.0S'	142° 27.0'E
4.	10° 18.0'S	142° 48.0'E
5.	9° 48.0'S	143° 08.0'E
6.	9° 30.0'S	143° 24.0'E
7.	9° 45.0'S	143° 24.0'E
8.	10° 20.0'S	143° 00.0'E
9.	10° 41.0'S	141° 50.0'E

Whitsundays pilotage area means the area bounded by a line that begins at the northernmost point of Cape Gloucester at low water, at about latitude 20° 03.94'S, longitude 148° 27.51'E, and

continues progressively:

a. to the following points:

Point:	Latitude:	Longitude:
1.	19° 58.02'S	148° 18.60'E
2.	19° 57.83'S	148° 18.53'E
3.	19° 58.00'S	148° 21.68'E
4.	19° 58.28'S	148° 27.05'E
5.	19° 58.37'S	148° 27.40'E
6.	19° 59.28'S	148° 33.62'E
7.	20° 00.82'S	148° 37.48'E
8.	20° 02.17'S	148° 53.07'E
9.	20° 03.58'S	148° 57.92'E
10.	20° 14.42'S	149° 10.47'E
11.	20° 15.20'S	149° 11.15'E
12.	20° 28.93'S	149° 08.03'E
13.	20° 31.20'S	149° 09.07'E
14.	20° 34.28'S	149° 10.50'E
15.	20° 33.91'S	149° 07.06'E
16.	20° 39.73'S	148° 45.82'E

b. west along parallel of latitude 20° 39.73'S to the coastline of the mainland at mean low water, near Midge Point; and

c. generally northerly, easterly, south-easterly and north-westerly along the coastline of the mainland at mean low water to the point where the boundary began.

Exemptions

Masters or vessel owners may apply to AMSA for an exemption from the pilotage requirements of the Navigation Act — see section 172. An exemption application must also be made to the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to navigate without a licensed pilot in the Hydrographers Passage, Inner Route and Whitsundays pilotage areas.

Further information about coastal pilotage exemptions is available at AMSA's website: [Coastal pilotage exemptions \(amsa.gov.au\)](https://www.amsa.gov.au/coastal-pilotage-exemptions)

Further information

General information about coastal pilotage requirements can be found on the AMSA website: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/safety-navigation/navigation-systems/under-keel-clearance-management>

Contact us

Any queries regarding coastal pilotage requirements should be directed to: coastal.pilotage@amsa.gov.au