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Publication of Major Public Navigation Routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east

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Dear Sirs / Madams,

Please be kindly advised that, in order to further regulate the navigation order of ships in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east and ensure maritime traffic safety, the Tianjin MSA, Liaoning MSA, Hebei MSA, and Shandong MSA jointly announced the implementation of 27 major public navigation routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters east of it, effective from 18 December 2023. This Circular aims to introduce these public navigation routes for the Club and Members' reference.

1. The list of Major Public Navigation Routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east

No.	Route Name	Center line turning point coordinates	Width (nm)	Course (°) (forward/reverse)	Distance (nm)	Type of Route	Remark
1	Chengshanjiao - Dandong Route	A:123°00'00"E / 37°37'00"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:123°25'00"E/38°56'00"N	3.0	14/194	81.3		
		C:123°47'19"E/39°20'37"N	3.0	35/215	30.1		
2	Weihai – Dandong Route	A:122°18'30"E/37°34'28"N	2.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:123°25'00"E/38°56'00"N	2.0/3.0	32/212	96.8		
		C:123°47'19"E/39°20'37"N	3.0	35/215	30.1		
3	Chengshanjiao - Dalian Route	A:122°43'25"E/37°39'35"N	15.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:123°51'41"E/38°45'00"N	3.0	328/148	77.0		
4	Chengshanjiao - Laotieshan Waterway Route	A:122°42'08"E/37°39'35"N	15.0	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	
		B:121°05'52"E/38°29'52"N	5.6	304/124	91.1		
5	Chengshanjiao - Changshan Waterway Route	A:122°40'15"E/37°39'10"N	13.0	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	
		B:121°24'53"E/37°52'50"N	5.6	283/103	61.2		
		C:121°07'14"E/37°56'46"N	5.2	286/106	14.4		
6	Weihai - Dalian Route	A:122°15'30"E/37°34'31"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:121°47'53"E/38°45'00"N	3.0	343/163	73.6		
7	Yantai - Dalian Route	A:121°30'53"E/37°46'19"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:121°46'53"E/38°45'02"N	3.0	12/192	60.0		
8	Laotieshan Waterway - Yantai Route	A:121°05'52"E/38°29'52"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B: 121°25'27"E/37°46'37"N	3.0	160/340	45.9		

9	Changshan Waterway - Laotieshan Waterway Route	A:120°59'58"E/38°01'42"N	1.5	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:121°01'01"E/38°06'52"N	1.5	9/189	5.2		
		C:121°05'52"E/38°29'52"N	1.5	9/189	23.3		
		D:121°46'53"E/38°45'02"N	3.0	12/192	13.5		
10	Changshan Waterway - Dalian Route	A:121°06'05"E/38°00'42"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:121°41'00"E/38°24'00"N	3.0	50/230	36.0		
		C:121°46'53"E/38°45'02"N	3.0	12/192	21.5		
11	Changshan Waterway - Tianjin Route (North Side)	A:120°19'35"E/38°07'59"N	2.8	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	Ship sailing in this route should be aware of offshore oil platforms at 119°03'56"E /38°33'03" N and 118°57'19"E /38°34'47"N
		B:119°39'48"E/38°21'28"N	2.8	280/100	79.8		
		C:119°12'08"E/38°28'59"N	2.8	289/109	23.0		
		D:118°56'47"E/38°33'24"N	2.3	290/110	12.8		
		E:118°42'29"E/38°38'36"N	2.3	295/115	12.4		
12	Changshan Waterway - Tianjin Route (South Side)	A:120°18'20"E/38°05'19"N	2.8	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 118°51'18"E /38°33'06"N
		B:119°36'04"E/38°16'21"N	2.8	288/108	35.1		
		C:119°09'39"E/38°26'13"N	2.8	295/115	23.0		
		D:118°41'02"E/38°36'37"N	2.3	295/115	24.7		
13	Changshan Waterway - Huanghua Route (North Side)	A:120°19'35"E/38°07'59"N	2.8	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:119°39'48"E/38°21'28"N	2.8	293/113	34.1		
		C:119°12'08"E/38°28'59"N	2.8	289/109	23.0		
		D:119°06'17"E/38°30'40"N	2.8/4.3	291/111	4.8		
		E:118°45'31"E/38°30'39"N	4.3	270/90	16.5		
14	Changshan Waterway - Huanghua Route (South Side)	A:120°18'20"E/38°05'19"N	2.8	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:119°36'04"E/38°16'21"N	2.8	288/108	35.1		
		C:119°09'39"E/38°26'13"N	2.8	295/115	23.0		
		D:118°57'25"E/38°30'40"N	2.8/4.3	295/115	10.5		
		E:118°45'31"E/38°30'39"N	4.3	270/90	9.3		
15	Changshan Waterway - Caofeidian Route	A:120°18'43"E/38°06'51"N	4.4	—	0	bidirectional branch route	connect to Laotieshan Waterway - Tianjin Route from point C
		B:119°00'00"E/38°43'38"N	4.4/3.0	301/121	72.0		
		C:118°51'53"E/38°47'25"N	3.0	301/121	7.4		
16	Changshan Waterway - Jingtang Route	A:120°18'46"E/38°06'53"N	2.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	
		B:119°19'34"E/38°54'17"N	2.0	316/136	66.3		
17	Laotieshan Waterway - Dongying Recommended Route	A:120°45'48"E/38°34'08"N	—	—	0	recommended route	Ship sailing in this route should be aware of offshore oil platforms at 119°37'01"E /38°19'39" N
		B:119°44'13"E/38°26'00"N	—	229/49	80.5		
		C:119°32'52"E/38°19'10"N	—	233/53	11.2		
		D:119°26'21"E/38°17'05"N	—	250/70	5.5		
		E:119°22'12"E/38°15'08"N	—	239/59	3.8		
18	Laotieshan Waterway - Caofeidian deep water Route	A:120°45'13"E/38°37'47"N	0.54	—	0	bidirectional branch route	Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 119°06'26"E /38°48'26"N
		B:119°10'00"E/38°48'00"N	0.54	278/98	75.2		
		C:118°45'12"E/38°48'00"N	0.54	270/90	19.4		

19	Laotieshan Waterway - Tianjin Route	A:120°44'59"E/38°36'41"N	6.0	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	(1) Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 119°29'36"E /38°43'18"N and 119°06'26"E /38°48'26"N (2) Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 118°53'28"E /38°44'35"N
		B:119°00'00"E/38°46'36"N	6.0/4.8	277/97	82.8		
		C:118°45'12"E/38°48'00"N	4.8	277/97	11.7		
20	Laotieshan Waterway - Huanghua Route	A:120°45'03"E/38°37'09"N	2.5	—	0	bidirectional branch route	Ship sailing in this route should be aware of offshore oil platforms at 118°53'56"E /38°37'35" N
		B:118°42'16"E/38°39'13"N	2.5	271/91	96.2		
21	Laotieshan Waterway - Jingtang Route	A:120°45'25"E/38°38'06"N	3.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 120°28'51"E /38°43'06"N
		B:119°20'16"E/39°02'04"N	3.0	290/110	70.7		
22	Laotieshan Waterway - Qinhuangdao Route	A:120°49'26"E/38°41'08"N	6.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	Ship sailing in this route should be aware of offshore oil platforms at 120°25'07"E /39°14'59"N and 120°19'31"E /39°10'22"N
		B:120°41'36"E/38°54'30"N	6.0	335/155	14.7		
		C:120°01'49"E/39°31'23"N	6.0	320/140	48.1		
23	Laotieshan Waterway - Yingkou Xianren Island deep water Route	A:120°48'00"E/38°40'37"N	0.54	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	
		B:120°48'00"E/39°31'12"N	0.54	0/180	50.6		
		C:121°14'42"E/39°54'36"N	0.54	41/221	31.2		
		D:121°30'00"E/40°04'03"N	0.54	51/231	15.1		
24	Laotieshan Waterway - Northern Bohai Sea Route	A:120°51'25"E/38°41'21"N	4.6	—	0	bidirectional trunk route	
		B:120°51'25"E/38°56'01"N	4.6	0/180	14.7		
		C:120°52'31"E/39°04'25"N	4.6/6	5/185	8.4		
		D:120°55'53"E/39°30'00"N	6.0	6/186	25.7		
		E:121°22'45"E/39°57'49"N	6.0	37/217	34.7		
25	Qinhuangdao - Tianjin Route	A:119°44'00"E/39°39'45"N	2.5	—	0	bidirectional branch route	connect to Laotieshan Waterway - Tianjin Route from point C
		B:119°44'00"E/39°20'00"N	2.5	180/0	19.8		
		C:119°17'40"E/38°44'54"N	2.5	210/30	40.6		
26	Qinhuangdao - Laizhou Route	A:119°44'00"E/39°39'45"N	2.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 119°54'38"E /38°35'45"N
		B:120°00'00"E/39°18'00"N	2.0	150/230	25.0		
		C:119°53'05"E/38°03'56"N	2.0	184/4	74.2		

27	Northern Bohai Sea - Tianjin Route	A:121°22'45"E/39°57'49"N	6.0	—	0	bidirectional branch route	(1) connect to Laotieshan Waterway - Tianjin Route from point D (2) Ship sailing in this route should pay attention to avoid shipwrecks at 120°11'47.55"E /39°15'23.79"N
		B:120°58'48"E/39°33'02"N	6.0/3.0	217/37	30.9		
		C:120°23'17"E/39°23'35"N	3.0	251/71	29.1		
		D:119°17'40"E/38°44'54"N	3.0	233/53	64.1		

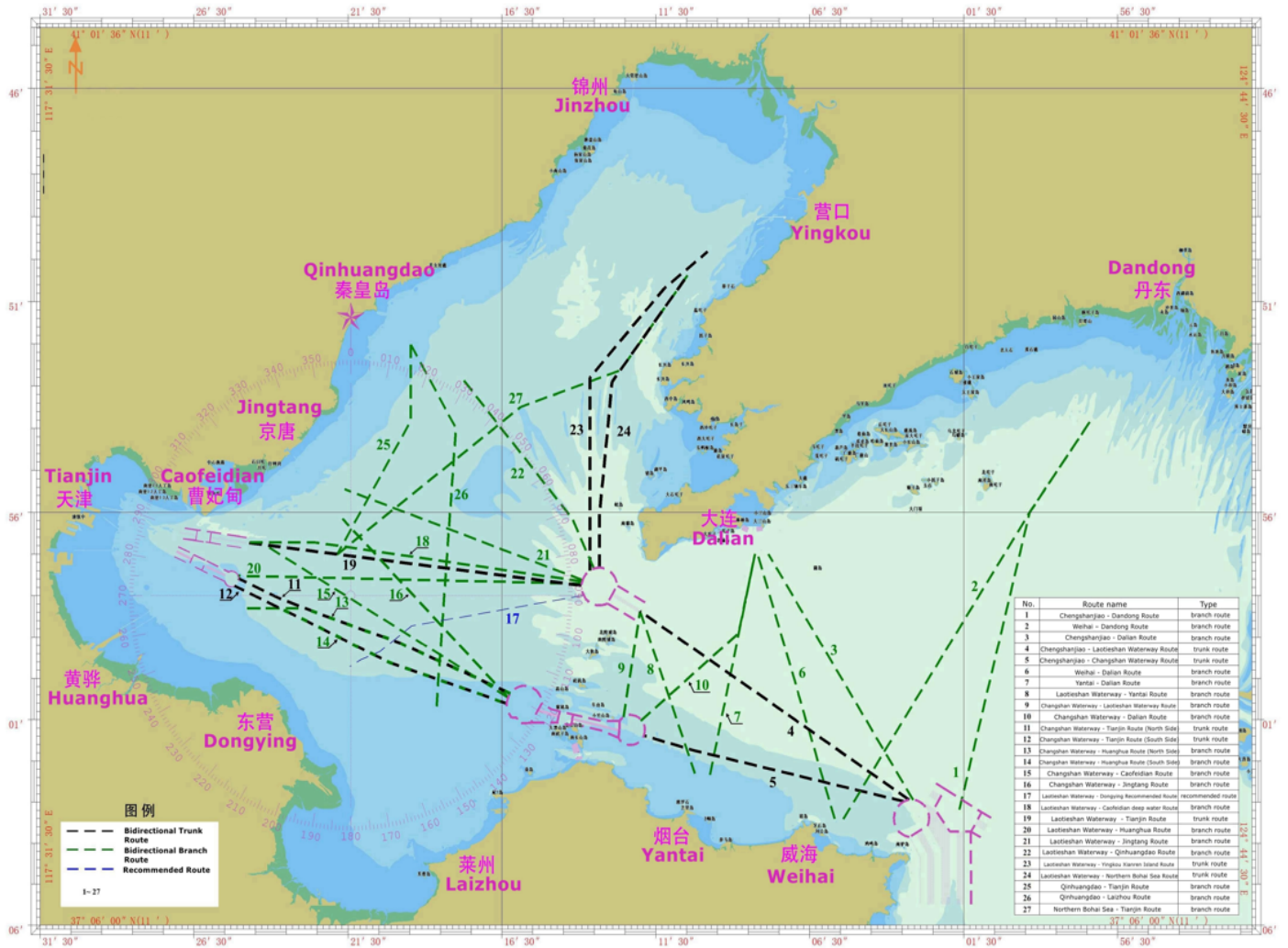
Notably, Chengshanjiao-Laotieshan Waterway Route (No.4) and Chengshanjiao-Changshan Waterway Route (No.5) are the two most crucial "throat passages" for entry and exit from the Bohai Sea. These routes were already announced by the Shandong MSA in 2021 and align with the routes disclosed this time. It is advised that commercial vessels prioritize the use of public navigation routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east, while fishing vessels should avoid fishing operations within these routes as much as possible.

2. MSA's brief description of Major Public Navigation Routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east

The above 27 publicized and implemented major public navigation routes (hereinafter referred to as "routes") in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east are all bidirectional, categorized into bidirectional trunk route, bidirectional branch route, and recommended routes.

- (1) Routes belong to protected public transportation resources and are not for the exclusive use of specific units or individuals.
- (2) The described turning points along the centerline of the routes are only for indicating the location and direction of the routes, and are not intended for use as recommended navigation or course for vessels.
- (3) The coordinates of the turning points are in the 2000 National Geodetic Coordinate System, equivalent to the WGS-84 World Geodetic Coordinate System for navigation purposes.
- (4) The route width is theoretical, subject to the width of navigable areas based on natural conditions and navigational requirements.
- (5) Vessels should use routes whenever possible, and it is recommended for vessels to navigate to the right of the centerline. Vessels should plan their routes scientifically and reasonably based on the characteristics of the vessel and the actual environment of the navigated waters, using the latest navigational chart information.
- (6) Vessel navigation must strictly adhere to the "International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972" and special regulations published by maritime authorities. Vessels within routes should be vigilant of changes in water depth to prevent incidents such as grounding. When entering or leaving routes, traversing routes, passing through densely navigated waters along routes, or navigating in intersecting waters, vessels should exercise special caution.
- (7) When vessels traverse routes, it is recommended, without impeding the safe navigation of other vessels, to intersect routes or traffic flows at right angles.
- (8) To ensure smooth navigation and to prevent collisions and other maritime traffic accidents, vessels should avoid anchoring or operating (including fishing operations) in waters of routes whenever possible.
- (9) In any circumstance, above routes serve only as recommended channels for vessels navigating in the relevant areas of the Bohai Sea. The routes are just for the reference of vessel master or crews, and do not exempt them from the responsibility of ensuring the safe navigation of their vessels.
- (10) Any adjustments to routes due to port construction, maritime traffic safety, or other needs will be announced separately.

3. Schematic Diagram of Major Public Navigation Routes in the Bohai Sea and the waters to the east



We hope the above will be of some assistance. If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact with us.

Yours faithfully,


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