**Compliance with Seasonal Management Areas:** The Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Management Areas (SMA) and associated speed restrictions of 10 kts are effective for Mid-Atlantic coast ports from Long Island Sound to Savannah from November 1st through April 30th each year. SMAs are active during this period in the following locations: Block Island Sound waters bounded by 40°51’53.7” N 070°36’44.9” W, 41°20’14.1” N 070°49’44.1” W, 41°04’16.7” N 071°51’21.0” W, 40°35’56.5” N 071°38’25.1” W then back to starting point; and within a 20 nm radius seaward of the entrances to the port of New York, Delaware Bay, Chesapeake Bay, Morehead City, and Beaufort, NC. Additionally, a continuous SMA has been established 20 nm from shore between Wilmington, NC and Brunswick, GA. These Mid-Atlantic SMAs are active from November 1st through April 30th. When operating in any of these SMAs from November 1st to April 30th, vessels of 65 feet in length or greater must transit at 10 kts or less regardless if whales are reported to be in the area or not.

The Southeast U.S. Seasonal Management Area which includes the ports of Brunswick, Fernandina and Jacksonville, is effective each year from November 15th through April 15th. This area extends from the shoreline east to longitude 80°51.6’W with southern and northern boundaries at latitude 29°45’N and 31°27’N. When operating in this SMA, from November 15th through April 15th, vessels of 65 feet in length or greater must transit at 10 kts or less regardless if whales are reported to be in the area or not.

When operating in any active SMA, in addition to reducing speed to a maximum of 10 kts, vessels should take the following precautions: Post lookouts trained in spotting right whales; maneuver around whales, and, if practicable, avoid transits in reduced visibility. Vessels entering or departing the ports of Brunswick, Fernandina, & Jacksonville between November 15th and April 15th are also requested to use the recommended two-way routes. These recommended routes are clearly marked on your navigational charts.

**Voluntary Dynamic Management Areas (DMAs):** When congregations of three or more whales are discovered outside of an active SMA, NOAA Fisheries Service will establish a DMA. Mariners are encouraged to avoid these areas or reduce speeds to 10 knots or less if avoidance of the DMA is not possible. DMAs are established for a minimum of 15 days and will be announced through customary maritime communication media.

**Compliance with Mandatory Ship Reporting (MSR) Requirements:** MSR is only required for vessels of at least 300 gross tons (including tugs with a combined tug & barge gross tonnage above 300 gross tons), who enter the WHALESSOUTH between November 15th and April 15th. The WHALESSOUTH area extends from the shoreline east to longitude 80°51.6’W with the southern & northern boundaries at latitude 30°00’N and 31°27’N, respectively. This area includes the ports of Brunswick, Fernandina and Jacksonville. Reporting is only necessary when entering the WHALESSOUTH zone and is not required when departing.

All ships equipped with INMARSAT C must report in the IMO standard format. Vessels not equipped with INMARSAT C must report via alternate satellite equipment to rightwhale.msr@noaa.gov or Telex: 481565090. Vessels unable to use satellite equipment should contact the U.S. Coast Guard Communication Area Master Station, Chesapeake, VA via published voice frequencies on 2182 kHz, 4125 kHz, 6215 kHz, 8291 kHz, 12290 kHz, 16420 kHz 24 hours per day or by phone at 1-800-742-8519 ext. 0. If you do not receive a reply to your message, please notify The Right Whale Shipping Industry Liaison at narightwhales@gmail.com. Please include a copy of your MSR message.

**Deviations from Speed Restrictions:** Vessels transiting in an active SMA may operate at a speed greater than 10 knots only if necessary to maintain a safe maneuvering speed in an area where conditions severely restrict vessel maneuverability as determined by the pilot or master. Masters of vessels operating inside a federal navigational channel, should heed the advice of the pilot who is familiar with the local conditions that may necessitate transiting in excess of 10 knots to ensure safe maneuverability. If a deviation from the 10 knot speed restriction is necessary, the following information must be entered into the vessel’s logbook: Reasons for deviation; speed at which vessel is operated; latitude and longitude at time of deviation; and, time and duration of deviation. The vessel’s Master must sign and date the logbook entry.

**Actions to take if you Spot or Strike a Right Whale:** If you spot a right whale (alive, dead, injured, entangled, etc.) please report the sighting immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard via Channel 16 and notify other vessels in the area. Please be advised that it is illegal to intentionally approach within 500 yards of a right whale.

**Disclaimer:** This guidance is for quick reference only. It does not supersede any information contained within the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Notice to Mariners, U.S. Coast Pilot, etc.

(Rev. Dec2011)