



REDUCE COLLISIONS WITH NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES

USE TWO-WAY ROUTES TO AVOID WHALES NOVEMBER - APRIL

PURPOSE:

To minimize collisions (vessel strikes) with endangered right whales during the winter calving season from November through April. These two-way routes were established based on historical patterns of right whale congregations during this timeframe.

WHO, WHERE, WHEN:

The two-way routes shown in the chart to the right are strongly **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for use by all vessels when traveling into or out of the Florida ports of Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach, as well as Brunswick Harbor, Georgia, from November through April.

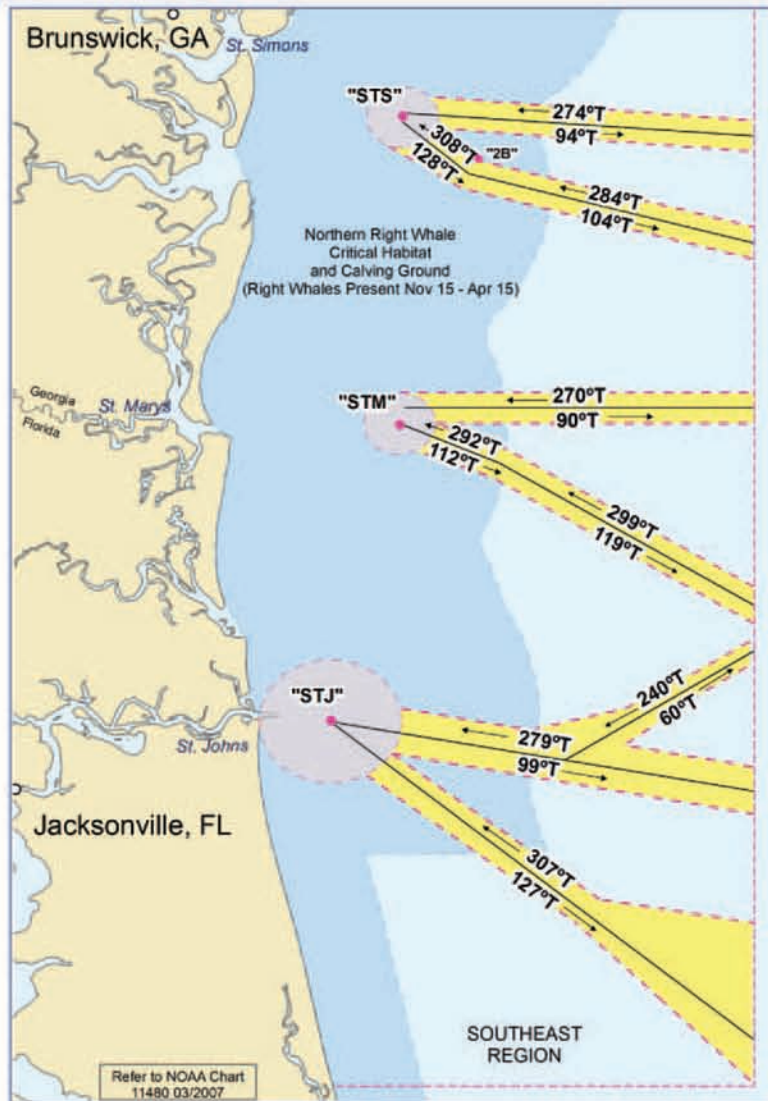
HOW:

The two-way routes may, at times, have opposing vessel traffic and all mariners should navigate with caution. Mariners are warned that some vessels might not be able to keep to the starboard side of the routes at all times.

Caution: Full bottom coverage surveys have not been conducted within the entire routes, so uncharted dangers may exist.

TRANSITING BETWEEN ADJACENT PORTS:

When transiting between adjacent ports within the critical habitat area, it is not necessary to use the two-way routes; however, mariners should consider minimizing travel distance through this area when consistent with safe navigation.



This chart is for information purposes only and is not to be used for navigation.

The blue shaded area is a calving area for Northern right whales from November 15 through April 15. This area encompasses the northern portion of designated critical habitat for the whales (see 50 CFR 226.203(c)).

REMEMBER:

When within the calving area, NOAA Fisheries Service recommends vessels reduce speed to 10 knots or less when consistent with safe navigation to reduce the risk of collision with right whales.

It is illegal to approach right whales closer than 500 yards (See 50 CFR 224.103(c), regulations, and exceptions).

