



**MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY BULLETIN 45-11**

**RIGHT WHALE MANDATORY SHIP STRIKE REDUCTION RULE AND  
MANDATORY SHIP REPORTING SYSTEM FOR WHALESOUTH**

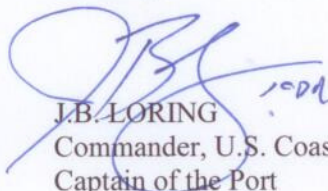
**The Northern Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Rule** took effect December 9, 2008. This Rule prohibits the operation of vessels sixty-five (65) feet (nineteen point eight (19.8) meters) in length or greater to transit at a speed of more than 10 knots while transiting the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Seasonal Management Areas per Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 224.105 (50 CFR 224.105) **from November 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012**. Please see enclosure (1) for the geographical boundaries of the Seasonal Management Areas. A minimum distance of five hundred (500) yards must be maintained from a sighted Right Whale unless this distance creates a hazard to the vessel or its occupants. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends that vessel operators assume that any whale sighting inside a Northern Right Whale area is a Right Whale. Vessels transiting through the Seasonal Management Areas are requested to report all Right Whale sightings and collisions to 877-433-8299 or to the U.S. Coast Guard via VHF Channel 16.

**The U.S. Mandatory Ship Reporting (MSR) System** for Northern Right Whales is in effect from **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. This system requires all vessels 300 gross tons and greater to submit a report prior to entering the designated WHALESOUTH area per Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations Part 169.115 (33 CFR 169.115). The geographical boundaries of the southeast reporting system include coastal waters within approximately 25 nautical miles along a 90 nautical mile stretch of the Atlantic seaboard in Florida and Georgia. The area extends from the shoreline east to longitude 80°51.60'W, with the southern and northern boundaries at latitudes 30°00.00'N and 31°27.00'N, respectively. Reports shall be submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) via e-mail: [rightwhale.msr@noaa.gov](mailto:rightwhale.msr@noaa.gov) or Telex: 48156090. Vessels equipped with INMARSAT C shall make reports in accordance with the IMO standard format per 33 CFR 169.135. Please see enclosure (2) for more information on reporting procedures.

Additionally, I highly recommend vessel operators maintain accurate documentation onboard their vessels demonstrating compliance with the speed and reporting requirements. This documentation should include a copy of the required telex message sent by the vessel's master when entering the WHALESOUTH area and a copy of any return receipt messages received. Retaining these messages will help U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers verify compliance with the reporting requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Commander Emily Saddler or Petty Officer Christopher Williams at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

  
J.B. LORING  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port