

that may affect vessel traffic safety within their sectors. The Los Angeles Sector is operated by the Los Angeles Pilot Station. Call Sign: "LA PILOTS". Traffic advisories are obtained on channel 73 VHF/FM. The Long Beach Sector is operated by the Jacobsen Pilot Service. Call Sign "LONG BEACH PILOTS". Traffic advisories are obtained on channel 74 VHF/FM.

### **VTS USER MANUAL:**

The VTS User Manual (revised July 01, 2015) may be viewed or obtained by visiting our website at [www.mxsocal.org](http://www.mxsocal.org), or by contacting the VTS Los Angeles/Long Beach 24 hour number at (310) 832-6411. We encourage all interested parties to visit the Marine Exchange Vessel Traffic Center, the Los Angeles Pilot Station and Long Beach Pilot Station. We also encourage suggestions for improvements to the VTS USER MANUAL or to VTS procedures. Suggestions may be mailed to:

Marine Exchange Vessel Traffic Center  
P.O.Box 1949  
San Pedro, CA 90733-1949; USA

Phone: (310) 519-3134 (administration office)  
(310) 519-3128 (accounting manager)  
(310) 832-6411 (24 hour ops center)  
(310) 832-7238 (fax)

World Wide Web: [www.mxsocal.org](http://www.mxsocal.org)  
Twitter: [@mxsocal.org](https://twitter.com/mxsocal.org)

### **VOLUNTARY WESTERN TRAFFIC LANES**

To address the safety concerns created by increased traffic south of the channel Islands, on October 6, 2009, the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee (LA/LB HSC) endorsed voluntary traffic lanes in the area south of the Channel Islands (referenced herein as "voluntary western traffic lanes") The LA/LB HSC developed these lanes as a voluntary measure to promote vessel safety.

Since the new voluntary western traffic lanes are not an IMO approved traffic separation scheme, the International regulations for Avoiding Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Rule 10 does not apply.

Mariners should exercise due caution when choosing to operate south of the Channel Islands and within the voluntary western traffic lanes. Description and further details may be found at our website at [www.mxsocal.org](http://www.mxsocal.org) or as listed in U.S.C.G. Local Notice to Mariners district: 11, Week 17/13, also in U.S.C.G. Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach Marine Safety Information bulletin 11-09.

### **SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AMENDMENT**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is amending the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Santa Barbara Channel and the approach to the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, effective June 1, 2013. The TSS amendment will reduce the width of the separation zone from 2 nautical miles (nm) to 1 nm by shifting the inbound lane shoreward and away from known whale concentrations. The outbound lane will remain unchanged in the current location. Narrowing the separation zone is expected to reduce co-occurrence of ships and whales while maintaining navigation safety. The IMO approved coordinates and graphic depicting the enclosed changes are provided in our User Manual located at our website or as listed in U.S.C.G. Local Notice To Mariners, District: 11, Week: 17/13.

New VTS rates effective 1 July 2015. See the MX website or VTS User Manual for details



## **VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH**

(Updated: July 01, 2015)

**SERVING THE SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA MARITIME INDUSTRY  
BY FACILITATING SAFE, EFFICIENT  
AND RELIABLE MARINE  
TRANSPORTATION.**

**VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE LOS ANGELES-  
LONG BEACH (VTS)**

**CALL SIGN: "SAN PEDRO TRAFFIC"**

Vessel Traffic Service Los Angeles-Long Beach (VTS) is in operation on the approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. Operated jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Marine Exchange of Southern California, the VTS provides vessel operators with advanced information of other reported marine traffic and any additional information, advice, and recommendations which may affect vessel safety within the VTS area.

The following participation requirements apply:

### **Active User (VMRS) Vessel Movement Reporting System:**

- Every power driven vessel of 40 meters (approx 131ft) or more in length, while navigating;

- Every commercial towing vessel of 8 meters (approx 26ft) or more in length, while engaged in towing astern, alongside, or by pushing ahead;

- Every vessel issued a certificate to carry 50 or more passengers for hire, while engaged in trade, regardless of length, or whether under sail or power.

These vessels monitor channel 14 VHF/FM, make all required reports and comply with general VTS rules outlined in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) User Manual.

#### **Passive User (VTS)**

- Every power driven vessel 20 meters (approx 65ft) or more in length;

- Every vessel of 100 gross tons or more carrying one or more passengers for hire;

- Every dredge or floating plant.

These vessels monitor channel 14 VHF/FM and respond if contacted by VTS.

#### **Non Participant**

- All other class of vessels.

These vessels are encouraged to monitor channel 14 VHF/FM, contact the VTS to obtain information, seek assistance or report emergencies, observe VTS measures (advice/information given by the VTS).

#### **NOTES OF INTEREST:**

1. The 25nm outer limit is defined by an arc from PT FERMIN light in position LAT: 33-42.3N, LONG: 118-17.6W.

2. There is no speed restriction between the 25nm limit and the Precautionary Area

(Regulated Navigation Area). However, ships are required to be at 12 knots or less upon entering the Precautionary Area.

3. Minimum vessel separation of 1/4 nautical mile is required in the Precautionary Area.

4. U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 33CFR 165.1109 identifies and defines the requirements of the Regulated Navigation Area within the Precautionary Area.

#### **ARRIVING VESSELS:**

1. Call the Vessel Traffic Center (VTC on VHF/FM channel 14, call sign "San Pedro Traffic" and provide the following information:

- Vessel Name/Call Sign.
- Position, course and speed.
- Vessel destination.
- State whether or not taking a pilot.
- Provide ETA (destination, pilot boarding area, anchorage, etc.).
- Steering and Engine Tests completed and satisfactory.

2. Contact Pilots, VHF/FM Channel 73 (LA Pilots) or channel 12 (Long Beach Pilots) as appropriate.

3. Reduce speed to be at 12 knots upon entry into the Precautionary Area/Regulated Navigation Area (RNA).

#### **UPON ENTERING THE PRECAUTIONARY AREA:**

Call "San Pedro Traffic" and provide the following information:

- Confirm vessel speed at or below 12 knots.
- Confirm master is on the bridge.
- Confirm vessel is in hand steering.
- Pilot report to the VTC when on board.

#### **DEPARTING FROM PORT OR GETTING UNDERWAY FROM ANCHORAGE:**

1. Call "San Pedro Traffic" 15 minutes prior to departing the breakwater entrance from any harbor within the 25nm arc from PT FERMIN Light and provide the following information:

- Vessel name/call sign.
- Destination and direction of travel.
- ETA to the pilot boarding area (if inbound).
- Acknowledge the VTS traffic report.
- Maintain a minimum separation of 1/4 nautical mile and a speed of 12 knots or less through the Precautionary Area.

#### **DEPARTING THE PRECAUTIONARY AREA:**

1. Report departure from the Precautionary Area. Provide an ETA to the 25nm radius or destination if within the 25nm radius.

#### **DEPARTING THE VTS AREA OR CHECKING OUT OF THE SYSTEM:**

1. Report departure from the VTS at the 25nm limit or destination if within the 25nm limit.

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Vessel anchoring within the VTS area are reminded to maintain a listening watch on CH-14 VHF/FM and contact the VTS a minimum of 15 minutes prior to beginning to navigate within the VTS area.

#### **VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:**

There is a Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) within the federal breakwater of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. Vessels inside the federal breakwater within the boundaries of Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors will be provided with advisory information on other marine traffic and any additional information available to the VTC's