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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 16-21

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: RIGHT WHALE SPEED RESTRICTION ZONES

Date: 19 October 2021

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has established a new Voluntary Right Whale Speed Restriction Zone (or Dynamic Management Area (DMA)) off the coast of Nags Head, North Carolina to protect an aggregation of right whales. The DMA is in effect through 22 October 2021. During this period, mariners are requested to avoid the DMA or transit at 10 knots or less to prevent collisions with right whales.

Republic of the Marshall Islands-flagged vessels are advised that violating NOAA’s voluntary speed restriction zones may impact the ability of a vessel to qualify for the United States Coast Guard’s E-Zero program.

Detailed information on all of NOAA’s vessel strike prevention regulations and programs, including a recent review of them, can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike/.