

# Republic of the Marshall Islands

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

11495 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1506  
TELEPHONE: +1-703-620-4880 FAX: +1-703-476-8522  
EMAIL: maritime@register-iri.com WEBSITE: www.register-iri.com

### YACHT SAFETY ADVISORY No. 05-24

**To: Yacht Owners/Captains, Managers, Agents, Recognized Class Societies and Appointed Representatives**

**Subject: NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE SPEED RESTRICTION ZONES**

**Date: 12 March 2024**

In addition to the mandatory Seasonal Management Areas, the United States (US) Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has established voluntary Right Whale Slow Zones and Dynamic Management Areas (DMA) off the East coast of the US to reduce the likelihood of right whale collisions with vessels. These temporary zones are established following sightings of North Atlantic right whales in a specific area. NOAA encourages vessels to avoid Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs or reduce speeds to 10 knots or less. Additionally, NOAA strongly recommends that vessels maintain a vigilant watch for North Atlantic right whale activity while transiting through these zones.

Republic of the Marshall Islands-flagged vessels are reminded that failing to comply with NOAA's voluntary Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs may impact a vessel's ability to qualify for the US Coast Guard's E-Zero program.

NOAA has issued its *Compliance Guide for Right Whale Ship Strikes Reduction Rule* ([50 CFR 224.105](#)), which provides a summary of the mandatory and voluntary requirements relating to North Atlantic right whale collision avoidance. Additional information regarding these regulations, as well as a list of current Right Whale Slow Zones and DMAs, can be found [here](#).

This YSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.