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ESCA Guideline No.20

Notifications to vessels operating in close proximity to subsea assets

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Introduction

Various means of alerting vessels to the location of subsea assets exist; namely charting by hydrographic offices, notice to mariners and services such as KIS-ORCA. However, at times these passive measures may need to be supplemented by active means of notification. This recommendation is intended to inform the details that should be included in an active notification sent to vessels operating in close proximity to subsea assets in a manner which may indicate an asset is at risk of sustaining damage or endangering the vessel.

Legislation

Overarching international legislation regarding active notifications to vessels does not exist. Before making active notifications to vessels country specific legislation should be reviewed and the appropriate competent bodies governing the use of the notification method to be used should be consulted.

Active notifications recommendation

ESCA does not recommend precise wording for active notifications to vessels but does recommend any message sent should include the following information as a minimum:

- Any message should have a professional, informative and impersonal tone and avoid any implied threat.
- Where possible, message should also be translated appropriately for the target audience.
- Vessel concerned name or identifying number
- Position of asset in question
- Name and contact details for the owner of the asset in question
- Details of identified activity putting the asset at risk, e.g. screenshot of vessel's track over cable"

Example text to cover recommendation.

I am writing on behalf of (Company Name) who are responsible for providing Cable Risk Management of subsea telecommunications / power cables in Europe. Our Cable Risk Management includes the monitoring of our client's cable routes. We wish to remind the ship's captain of the presence of subsea cables and request that extra caution is exercised when operating near chartered cables in order to avoid any incident. Due to changing seabed conditions it should not be assumed that all cables are buried.

We have noticed (Vessel name) (AIS reported activity) ___ over a section of subsea cable.

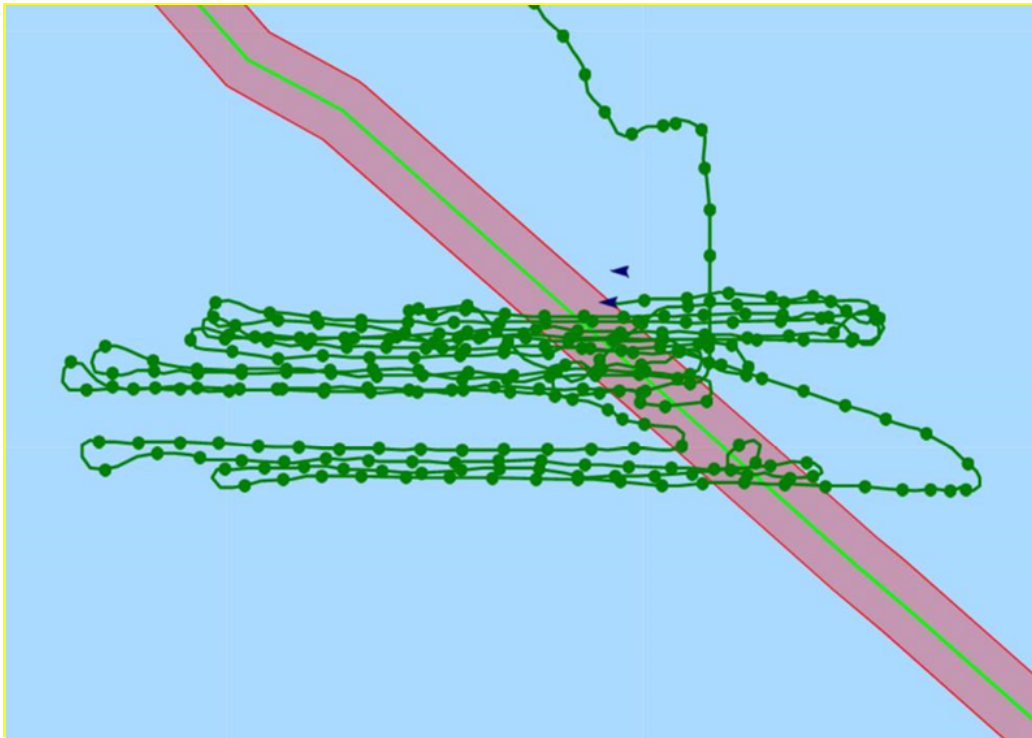
Please see details and track of your vessel below.

(insert screenshot)

Should you like to learn more please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards

(Company Name)



Vessel Name
MMSI:
AIS Activity: XXX
IMO Number: 0
Radio Call Sign: XXX
Length x Breadth:
Destination: XXX
Navigation Status: Engaged in (AIS activity)
Speed Over Ground: *.* knots
Rate Of Turn: 0°/min
Course Over Ground: xxx°
True Heading: xxx°
Lat/Long: Lat Long : (DMS:)

Record keeping

Where active notifications to vessels have been made it is recommended that a detailed log of such notifications is maintained along with any responses that may be received.

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