



APPENDIX TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - 2

The Strait of Messina

General

The Strait of Messina is a narrow stretch of sea with dense sea traffic. In addition to the commercial traffic through the Strait, which is subject to the traffic separation scheme (south bound lane to the west and north bound lane to the east), there is the heavy ferry traffic between the Italian mainland and Sicily, which crosses at approximately right angles to the above-mentioned lanes, joining the ports of Reggio Calabria and Villa San Giovanni with the port of Messina. Tidal currents flow through the Strait of Messina. The Messina Traffic Separation Scheme is defined in the extract from the official regulation included in this appendix.

Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Station

A Coast Guard VTS Station, is located on the hills overlooking Messina, and continuously monitors the traffic in the straits. If necessary, boats can contact the Station by VHF radio on channels 16 or 10, calling "Messina Traffic" or by telephone (+39) 39 09 041711.

Compliance with instructions of Italian Coast Guard

In little or no wind conditions, boats may be becalmed or making little or no headway because of the tide while in sensitive areas, like the approaches to the ferry terminals of Villa San Giovanni and Reggio Calabria on the Calabria coast or those of Messina (situated in the port of Messina itself and on the coast, about one nautical mile north and about four nautical miles south of the port of Messina) on the Sicilian coast. In exceptional circumstances, particularly at night, if the situation is considered sufficiently hazardous, a boat may be approached by Italian Coast Guard patrol craft and directed to start its engine to motor out of that particular area.

The Coast Guard officials on board the patrol craft will specify how far and in what direction the boat is required to motor to clear the sensitive area. They will note the boat's name, its sail number and monitor that it complies with the instructions received. A detailed report will be forwarded to the Royal Malta Yacht Club by the Coast Guard Command.

Competitors involved in such incidents shall comply with the instructions received, take note of the following data and report them on their declaration form:

- side number of patrol craft and instruction received,
- position and time when starting their engines,
- position and time when shutting them off,
- weather conditions (wind, tide, visibility, etc.),
- any other relevant information.

It is a requirement that a continuous watch on VHF channel 16 be kept at all times while navigating the Strait of Messina.