

# UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

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[www.akgillnet.org](http://www.akgillnet.org)

June 6, 2013

Dear Southeast Gillnetters,

## **Re: Standard Cruise Ship Tracklines for Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage for 2013 Season**

Over the past winter we worked with the Southeast Pilots and members of the Marine Safety Task to develop **REVISED** standard tracklines for cruise ships in Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage. This is in response to issues that have arisen when cruise ship transit active gillnet fishing areas; this was especially acute in lower Lynn Canal in 2012.

The main period of congestion is @ 10-20 July, although there are concerns outside the peak DIPAC chum period. The cruise ship period of concern is primarily Sunday-Tuesday between 10PM and 2AM, when @ 5 northbound and @5 southbound ships are converging in lower Lynn Canal. The Southeast Alaska Voluntary Waterway Guide recommends against meeting and overtaking of deep-draft vessels in Favorite Channel, Saginaw Channel and parts of Lynn Canal. There are added constraints for the ships to be lined up in correct order for port entry to Skagway or Juneau.

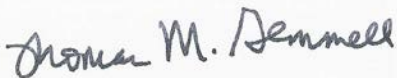
Please note the old trackline resulted in more time and was deeper into the Boat Harbor harvest area. This new southbound trackline is as far offshore as the pilots are comfortable with due to the "head on" situation with northbound vessels.

During 2013, we expect to use these tracklines and evaluate them after the end of the seasons.  
COMMENTS ARE WELCOME.

In addition to these tracklines, USAG/SEAFA are working with the pilots to minimize cruise ship wakes in the vicinity of the DIPAC net pens at Sheep Creek and the DuPont loading areas in Gastineau channel.

*If you are not on our email list, please send your email to [usag.alaska@gmail.com](mailto:usag.alaska@gmail.com) so we can keep you in the loop.*

Sincerely,



Thomas M Gemmell  
Executive Director

## APPENDIX A

### **LYNN CANAL AND STEPHENS PASSAGE GILLNET TRACKLINES**

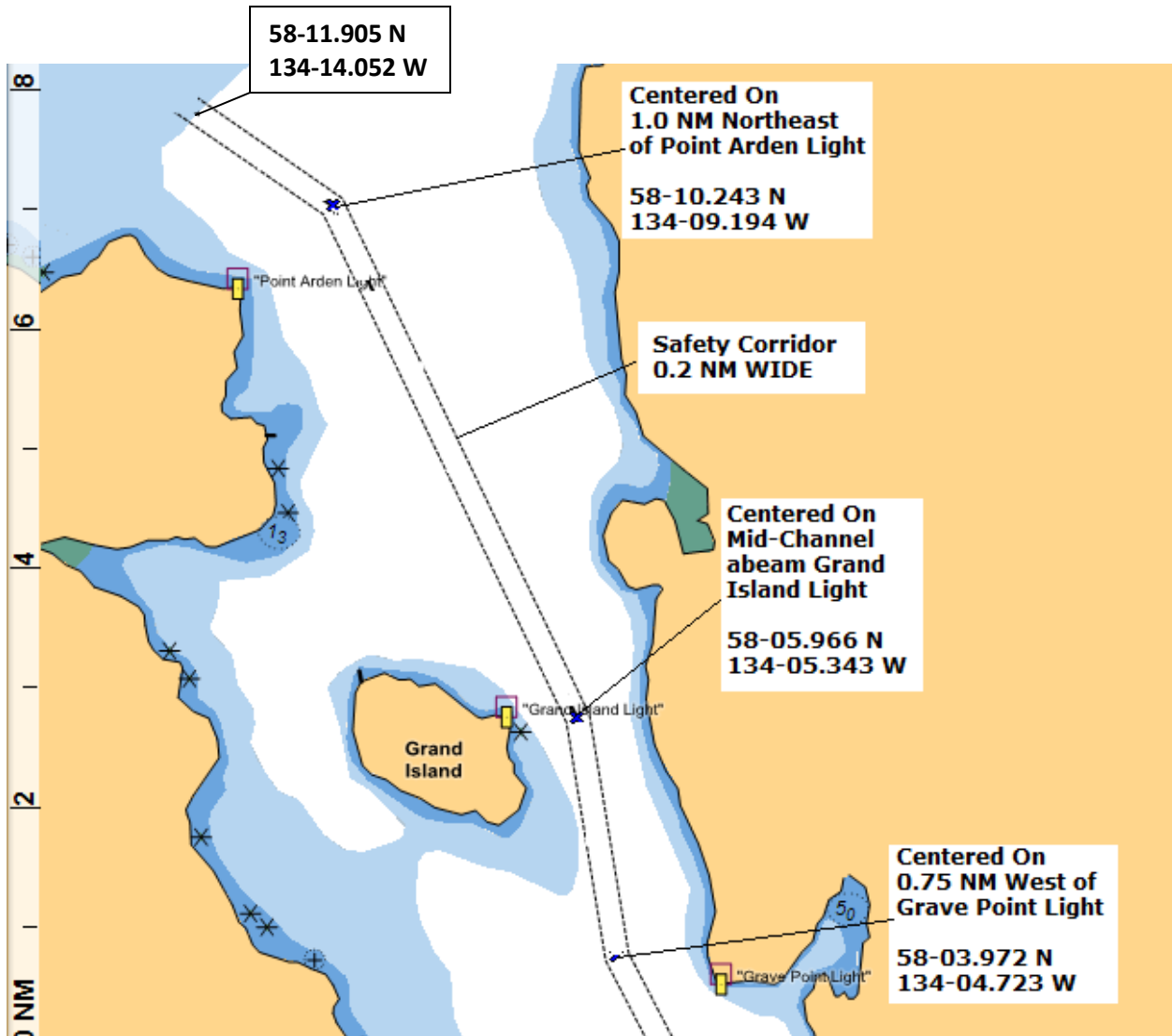
During the winter of 2012 and 2013, the Marine Safety Task Force co-chairs worked with the Southeast Alaska Pilots' Association and the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association representatives to develop a set of tracklines to aid in reducing the impact of deep-draft vessels on the gillnet fishing vessel fleets operating in lower Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage in the vicinity of Point Arden and Grave Point.

The results of the effort are the tracklines depicted on the following charts. As with the tracklines published in the U.S. Coast Pilot for Sumner Strait between Point Baker and Point Colpoys, they were produced with a corridor of 0.2 NM.

The MSTF met in April 2013 and approved the tracklines for a trial period during the 2013 season. The effectiveness of these tracklines will be evaluated at the end of the cruise ship season and results brought to the MSTF at the next meeting for discussion.

Deep draft vessels are encouraged to follow the tracklines during times of fishing openings, typically June and July. Early, at least 30 minutes prior to transiting the areas, sécurité calls are critical to alerting the fishing fleet of intended passages.

SAFETY CORRIDORS DURING STEPHENS PASSAGE GILLNET FISHING CONDITIONS FOR DEEP-DRAFT TRAFFIC GRAVE POINT TO POINT ARDEN.



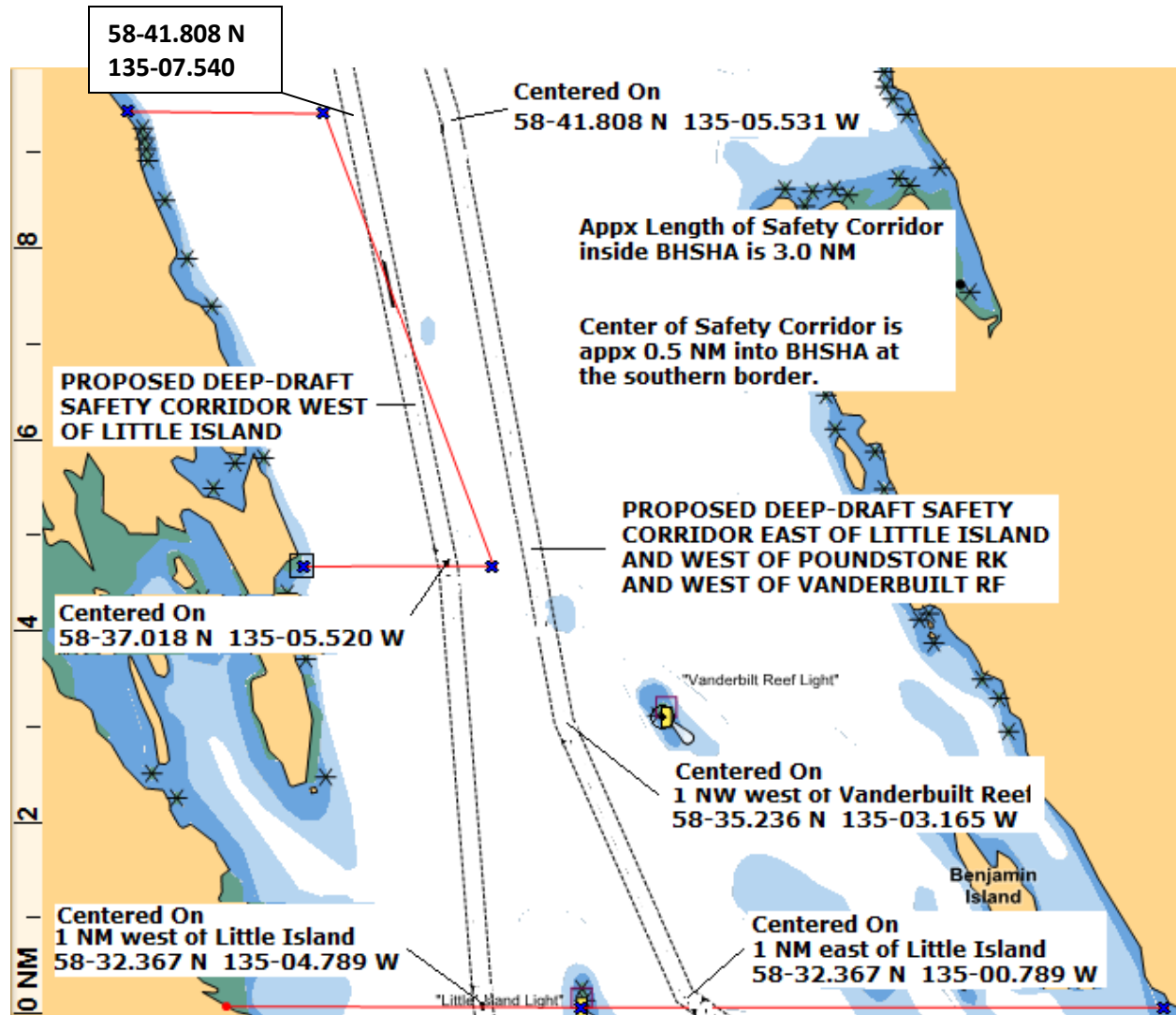
Voluntary vessel traffic procedures for gillnet fishing conditions and deep-draft ships transiting Grave Point to north of Point Arden. Traffic lanes are about 0.2 NM wide centered on the points as shown.

Deep-Draft Traffic:  
 Sécurité call 30 minutes prior to entering area;  
 Maintain safety corridors as much as possible.

Gillnet Fishing Vessels;  
 Mark net end with lights and radar reflectors;  
 Monitor VHF CH 13 & 16 for broadcasts;  
 Advise other gillnetters if they appear in the Traffic lane and deep-draft ships are approaching.

Marine Safety Task Force Contact:  
 Capt. E. Sinclair, SEAPA  
 (907)225-9696

SAFETY CORRIDORS DURING LYNN CANAL GILLNET FISHING CONDITIONS FOR DEEP-DRAFT TRAFFIC EAST AND WEST OF LITTLE ISLAND.



Voluntary vessel traffic procedures for gillnet fishing conditions and deep-draft ships transiting Lynn Canal. Traffic lanes are about 0.2 NM wide centered on the points as shown.

**Deep-Draft Traffic:**

Sécurité call 30 minutes prior to entering area;  
Maintain safety corridors as much as possible.

**Gillnet Fishing Vessels;**

Mark net end with lights and radar reflectors;  
Monitor VHF CH 13 & 16 for broadcasts;  
Advise other gillnetters if they appear in the Traffic lane and deep-draft ships are approaching.

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