



Notice to Industry 06/2023

Date issued: June 1, 2023

Effective date: July 1, 2023

Subject: Night-time planning standard at Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) anchorages

In collaboration with industry, supply chain partners, and partner agencies responsible for vessel traffic management, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is implementing a six-month pilot of a night-time planning standard for ships arriving at or departing from anchorages around the Southern Gulf Islands. The primary objective of this pilot trial is to evaluate the impact of the new planning standard on the efficiency and sustainability of the supply chain and the well-being of the coastal communities.

Building on the [Anchorage Code of Conduct](#) implemented in February 2023, this new standard will help further reduce negative social impacts—such as the ones caused by ambient noise and light—from cargo ships arriving at or departing from an anchorage around the Southern Gulf Islands during night-time hours.

Consistent with the port authority's role in assigning anchorages under the [Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages](#), we will require that ships heading to or coming from an anchorage in the Southern Gulf Islands adhere to the new night-time planning standard.

The port authority recognizes that anchorages play a crucial role in our transportation system. They support cargo throughout, efficiency at marine terminals as well as a strong and resilient supply chain by providing surge capacity during disruptions and other unforeseeable events. The proposed night-time standard will help us balance trade objectives and impacts on coastal communities.

About the night-time planning standard

Starting July 1, 2023, the port authority will ask all ships assigned to one of the 33 anchorages around the Southern Gulf Islands—as identified in the Pacific Pilotage Authority's [Notice to Industry "Anchorage information" \(03/2023\)](#)—to refrain from arriving at or departing from anchorages in the area at night, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (8 hours). Exceptions to the planning standard include:

- 1) Ships required to shift from anchorage to berth for cargo or other anchorage within port authority jurisdiction
- 2) Ships required to shift to an SGI anchorage due to operational requirements and/or unavailability of suitable anchorage
- 3) Safe refuge needed during inclement weather
- 4) Port congestion, supply chain disruptions or other emergency situations
- 5) Non-commercial vessels that belong to His Majesty in right of Canada or province (e.g., Canadian Coast Guard, Department of National Defence, Royal Canadian Mounted Police)

The port authority will provide early indication of the anchorage assignment to the vessel, allowing the Master to take appropriate measures, such as slowing down, to adjust the vessel arrival time.