

Information about winter navigation

1. General information

According to the local and governmental regulations, Maritime Administration is the competent authority for conducting icebreaking operations and issuing traffic restrictions to assist commercial vessel traffic in the connecting waterways of Poland.

2. Traffic restrictions (for vessels bounding to the port of Świnoujście and port of Szczecin)

from	Ice class / main engine power	other
1 th December*	L4 (or other equivalent)/ 1200 kW	traffic directions suspending of tug exemptions suspending of pilot exemption
15 th January*	L3 (or other equivalent)/ 1500 kW	above mentioned and tug assistance during manoeuvring for vessels less then 90 m LOA forming of convoy (schedule and convoy forming point is determined by Harbour Master)

The winter season usually ends the end of February, but it could end a little longer as well.

* Restrictions listed in table above come into force when the Ice Report is published on the Maritime Administration web page <http://www.ums.gov.pl/nawigacyjne/lodowe/SYTUACJA.pdf> and may differ in details.

Actual Ice Report is available from VTS on request.

Icebreaking assistance is only given to vessels, witch meet the requirements set out in the traffic restrictions.

Small harbours may be closed, even if winter navigation is in progress within other parts of the same area, if there is a lack of locally owned icebreakers and due to a limited availability of state icebreaker resources.

Directions for an alternate port of call might also be given.

3. Exemptions (pilots, tug, out of convoy)

If there is available ice breaking capacity or if the weather and ice forecast is favorable (temporary easy ice conditions) exemptions may be granted.

Exemptions are always granted for one voyage only.

As a rule, exemptions are not granted to vessels more than 20 years of age.

4. Prioritization

Vessels in distress are always assisted first, then passenger vessels and vessels carrying goods of special significance. Otherwise there are no prioritization between the vessels.

Tugs with barges (barges fixed with cables or lines) and inland waterway vessels are not suitable for winter navigation and are not assisted by icebreaking service.

5. Traffic information

During traffic restrictions vessel are obliged to report ice conditions. The informations about the winter navigation may be received from:

- Maritime Administration web page <http://www.ums.gov.pl/nawigacyjne/lodowe/SYTUACJA.pdf>
- VTS Center ŚWINOUJŚCIE “Świnoujście Traffic”
VHF channel 12
P: +48 91 321 62 03
e-mail: swinoujscietraffic@ums.gov.pl
- VTS Center Szczecin “Szczecin Traffic”
VHF channel 69
P: +48 91 44 03 384
e-mail: szczecintraffice@ums.gov.pl