



**USCG Sector Southeast Alaska (SEAK)  
Mission Management System (MMS)  
Work Instruction (WI)**



Category	Domestic Vessel Inspections				
Title	<b>Stability Routes in Southeast Alaska</b>				
Serial	SEAK-INSP-08 (v01)	Orig. Date	10JUL25	Rev. Date	N/A
Disclaimer	This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any part. It represents the Southeast Alaska Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection’s (OCMI’s) current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, and the public, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach (you are not required to do so), you may contact the Sector SEAK Prevention Department, who is responsible for implementing this guidance. (See “questions,” below, for contact information.)				
References	(a) Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter S - Subdivision and Stability (b) Title 46 CFR Subchapter T - Small Passenger Vessels (Under 100 Gross Tons)				
Change Summary	N/A				

- 1) Purpose. This MMS WI identifies certain waters that have been determined to be *Protected* and *Partially Protected* based on environmental conditions and a history of vessels operating safely in those areas.
  
- 2) Action.
  - (a) SEAK Marine Inspectors (MIs) shall reference this guidance when drafting or amending Certificate of Compliance Routes and Conditions for vessels operating in the SEAK Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) zone.
  
  - (b) The operator of a vessel that is permitted to operate in SEAK, but is built or certificated in another OCMI zone, shall ensure that their vessel meets SEAK’s minimum stability requirements prior to operating in the in the SEAK OCMI zone.
  
- 3) Distribution. This MMS WI may be publicly distributed.
  
- 4) Background. This MMS WI supersedes and cancels ‘Sector Juneau Policy Letter for Inspected Vessels operating in Southeast Alaska,’ SECJUNPOLLTR 01-2018, dated 8 June 2018, which in turn replaced SECJUNPOLLTR 03-2008, dated 22 December 2008. The guidance contained in this MMS instruction is the latest in a series of SEAK OCMI documents evolving from a OCMI memo dated 23 August 1994 that refined local stability

standards, as is the purview of the OCMI, per reference (a). The 1994 memo and its subsequent iterations consider the varying degrees of risk in specific areas of SEAK, particularly in winter conditions. This MMS WI differs from the previous version in that Clover Passage is now included in the list of *Partially Protected* waters for ‘T-boats’ on *Lakes Bays and Sounds* routes, but only from 1 April to 1 October. The seasonal allowance reflects a NOAA review of Clover Passage, that found: “With the orientation of Clover Passage, it would be more protected from winds that come from the East to the South as well as the West to North. But any kind of Southwest or Northeast wind would produce conditions that are less favorable for boaters. So any kind of cold outflow events like we get in the winter would be more problematic.”

5) Direction.

(a) Vessels with *Oceans, Coastwise, Limited Coastwise* routes shall meet all *Exposed* stability and subdivision standards.

(b) Vessels with *Lakes, Bays and Sounds* routes, other than Small Passenger Vessels inspected under reference (b), i.e. “T-boats,” shall meet all *Exposed* stability and subdivision standards. “T-boats” that are limited to *Lakes, Bays and Sounds* routes must meet *Exposed* standards for Intact Stability described in Subpart C of Part 178 of reference (b), but may meet *Partially Protected* standards for all other requirements described in Parts 178 and 179 of Subchapter T.

(c) SEAK OCMI water designations:

i) Exposed. All waters of the SEAK OCMI zone, other than those specified in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) below, are designated *Exposed*.

ii) Partially Protected. The following waters are designated *Partially Protected*:

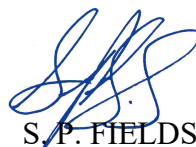
(1) Auke Bay and Gastineau Channel: All waters of Auke Bay, Gastineau Channel and all connecting waters inside the area bounded to the northwest by a line running from Indian Point to Coghlin Island to Spuhn Island and to False Outer Point, and bounded to the southeast by a line running from Point Tantallon to Point Salisbury.

(2) Tongass Narrows: All waters of Tongass Narrows bounded to the north by a line running from Vallenar Point on Gravina Island through Pond Reef Light 16 to Revillagigedo Island and to the south by a line running from Gravina Point through Potter Rock Light to Revillagigedo Island.

(3) Clover Passage (only from 1 April to 1 October): The waters within Clover Passage bounded by the following lines: a Northern line through Clover Passage Entrance light from Revillagigedo Island to Betton Island; a line bearing 218° T from the south end of Back Island near 55°32.16' N. latitude, 131°45.20' W longitude and continuing to the intersection of the shoreline on Betton Island at about 55°31.55' N latitude, 131°45.98; a line beginning at the shoreline of Revillagigedo

Island near 55°30.51' N latitude, 131°43.88'W longitude bearing 330° T to the shoreline on Back Island near 55°32.16' N. latitude, 131°45.20' W longitude.

- (4) Stikine Area: All waters within the following geographic boundaries: Sumner Strait, east of the line drawn between Port Protection and Sumner Island, and south of the line drawn between Threemile Arm and Keku Strait; Clarence Strait, north of the line drawn between the northern tip of Steamer Knoll and light marking the entrance to Coffman Cove; Ernest Sound, north of the line drawn between Ernest Point and Union Point; Frederick Sound, south of the line drawn at 090 from the light at Sukoi Islets.
- iii) Protected. The waters of the Chilkat, Stikine and Taku Rivers above the area of tidal influence are designated *Protected*.
- (d) Vessels that have proven satisfactory operations in SEAK and were operating in the SEAK OCMI zone prior to 23 August 1994 remain grandfathered and need not comply with this policy. Vessels operating in the SEAK OCMI zone on *Limited Coastwise* routes prior to 1 January 2009 are also grandfathered and need not meet the *Exposed* standard described above.
- (e) All newly constructed vessels, as well as vessels new to the SEAK OCMI zone, must meet the criteria specified above for the routes on which they intend to operate.
- (f) Operators may request, in writing, that the OCMI grant exemptions to this guidance. The OCMI will consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis. All existing exemptions granted between 1994 and 2018 under previous versions of this guidance remain in effect.
- 6) Questions. You may direct any questions or concerns related to this MMS WI to Sector Prevention Department staff at [SectorSEAKPrevention@uscg.mil](mailto:SectorSEAKPrevention@uscg.mil) or via the Command Center at 907-463-2980 or 206-815-6563.



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