Digital tools in new shipping routes in Danish waters
Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) reports

On July 1, 2020, new shipping routes will be established in Kattegat and Skagerrak. The routes will increase the safety of navigation for the 70,000 ships that pass through these waters annually. This was reported by the DMA on 4 February.

Work is currently underway on the production of new charts and information for vessels so that the Danish and Swedish maritime authorities can be ready for the final establishment on 1 July 2020. The Danish Maritime Authority is preparing the new shipping routes in collaboration with the Swedish Transport Agency and the charting authorities in both countries. The new shipping routes were approved by the IMO, in 2018.

The new shipping routes
The current Kattegat shipping route, Route T, was established over 40 years ago. Today, ships are much larger, and approximately 70,000 sail through Kattegat annually, including many deep-draught tankers sailing to and from the Baltic Sea.

The new shipping routes are established to create more predictable traffic patterns and to guide ships on routes that separate oncoming ship traffic better, thus increasing the safety of navigation. On some sections, so-called traffic separation schemes are introduced, which will simplify sailing and help prevent ship collisions.

Digital buoyage is used
In addition to the traditional aids to navigation, the new shipping routes will in several places be marked with virtual AIS buoys. These type of buoys differs from traditional buoys as they are not physically found in the water, but are only visible in the ship’s navigation system. Furthermore, the AIS system can be used to send fast information directly to the ships. In the period leading up to 1 July this year the AIS system will continuously release information about the impending route changes.

To learn more
Information about these new shipping routes will be found on the Danish Maritime Authority's website here: https://www.dma.dk/SikkerhedTilSoes/Sejladsinformation/RuterKattegatSkagerak/Sider/default.aspx
And there is more about the new shipping routes in this published leaflet (English) here: https://www.dma.dk/Documents/Publikationer/NewShippingRoutes.pdf

The detailed and official information about the new routes will be published in Notices to Mariners and in the official charts from the Danish Geodata Agency.

Photo: DMA ©.