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COLREG.2/Circ.73
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**TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES
AND ASSOCIATED ROUTEING MEASURES
"IN NORRA KVARKEN"**

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Communication by the Government of Sweden

At the request of the Government of Sweden, the information contained in the annex, concerning an announcement issued by the Swedish Transport Agency, is brought to the attention of Member States and international organizations.

ANNEX**TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES AND ASSOCIATE ROUTEING MEASURES "IN NORRA KVARKEN"**

After consultation with the Icebreaking Management of the Swedish Maritime Administration and the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency (TRAFICOM), the Swedish Transport Agency has decided to temporarily suspend the traffic separation schemes (TSSs) as well as the two-way routes "IN NORRA KVARKEN", which are described in detail in COLREG.2/Circ.63, paragraph 1.1 and annex 1, dated 8 May 2012.

The suspension comes into force at 0000 UTC on 1 February 2019. The reason for the suspension is the prevailing ice conditions in the area. These conditions are expected to remain the same until late spring 2019. This temporary suspension is deemed to be cancelled on 6 May 2019, unless further notice is given by a notice to mariners. The cancellation and further information are given by notices to mariners.

The area is mostly covered with solid and drifting ice of variable thickness, and ice channels arise in varying locations. Ship traffic is guided or assisted by Swedish or Finnish icebreakers and the ships receive information about the present ice situation and proposed routes, or sail in convoys headed by the icebreakers.

If the TSSs are not suspended under this condition, the ships will have difficulties navigating in accordance with COLREG rule 10. For this reason and under the prevailing ice conditions, this would involve an unacceptable risk.

Sweden would appreciate if this information could be brought to the attention of other Member States and organizations so that they can inform shipowners, ship operators, shipping companies, masters and all others concerned.

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