



Date: 11th July 2022

Circular no.: 0058C/TG/07/22

To: Ship owners/ Ship-operators & Ship-managers / Masters/ CSOs / Recognized Organizations/
Recognized Security Organizations/ Deputy Registrars.

Subject: DESIGNATION OF THE SABA BANK AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREA

References:

- a) Regulation of the Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of December 15, 2010, No. 169929, designating the Saba Bank as nature park; Amended by regulation of the State Secretary of Economic Affairs, of May 29, 2013, no. 13030645 to implement Resolution MEPC 226(64)
- b) IMO Resolution MEPC.226(64) Designation of the SABA Bank as a particularly sensitive sea area, adopted on 5 October 2012

PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to bring to your attention that on 17-06-2017 the Saba bank area became a Particular Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) as well as an Area to Be Avoided (ATBA) and is closed for all shipping > 300 GT.

GENERAL:

BEING AWARE of the ecological, socio-economic and scientific attributes of the Saba Bank in the North-eastern Caribbean area of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as its vulnerability to damage by international shipping activities and the steps taken by the Netherlands to address that vulnerability,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposal made by the Government of the Netherlands that the Saba Bank be designated as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area,

HAVING AGREED that the criteria for the identification and designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area provided in resolution A.982(24) are fulfilled for the Saba Bank,

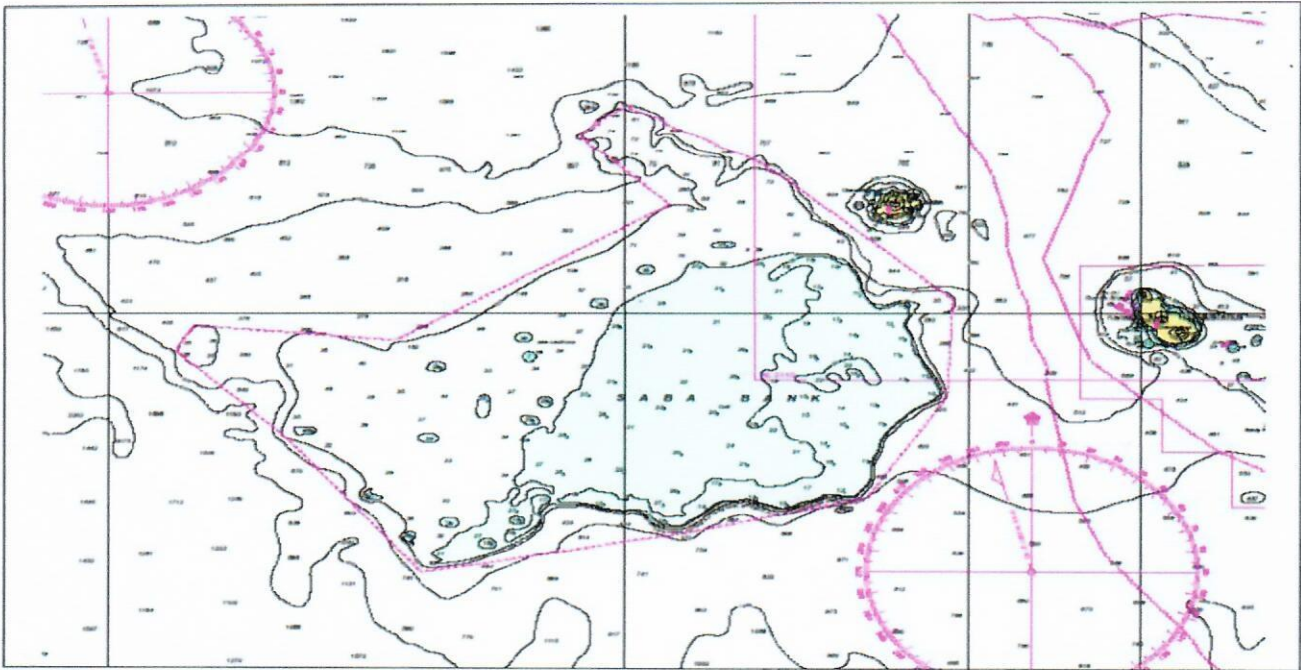
The IMO through [Resolution MEPC.226\(64\)](#) adopted on October 5, 2012 the recommendation on the establishment of An Area to Be Avoided (ATBA) for ships 300 gross tonnage and above and a mandatory No Anchoring Area for all ships as Associated Protective Measures (APMs) for the **Saba Bank as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)** aiming at improving the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment and

-INVITED Member Governments to recognize the ecological, socio-economic, and scientific attributes of the area, as well as its vulnerability to damage by international shipping activities, and

-FURTHER INVITED Member Governments to note the associated protective measures established to address the area's vulnerability, and request ships flying their flag that they act in accordance with such measures.



The above-mentioned Resolution provides a Description of the Area to be avoided for Ships 300 GT and above and Mandatory No Anchoring Area for All Ships. (See the below extract of the map)



Map is an extract from:

Netherlands Nautical Chart no. 2020, Edition November 2007

Scale: 1:300,000. This chart is based on World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) Royal Netherlands Navy Hydrographic Service

GUIDANCE:

We request all TOGO flag vessels to comply with the requirements of Resolution MEPC.226(64) and relevant regulations when preparing their voyage and pass close to the Saba Bank.

Ships above 300 GT can no longer cross the Saba Bank and all ships can no longer anchor in the area. The fines associated are high and vessels not in compliance with the above requirements can be prosecuted by local authorities.

For the International Ship Registry of Togo



Yeta N. Medawar
Ship Registrar

For the Togolese Maritime Authority



M. GNAMA K. Mawaïboyodou
Technical Advisor to the Minister

Encl.: IMO Resolution MEPC.226(64) Designation of the SABA Bank as a particularly sensitive sea area, adopted on 5 October 2012