

**GIBRALTAR DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING**  
(Department of Trade, Employment and Communications)



Watergate House  
2/8 Casemates Square  
Gibraltar

Tel (+350) 46862 / 47771 / 50424  
Fax (+350) 47770  
e-mail: [maritadmin@gibtelecom.net](mailto:maritadmin@gibtelecom.net)  
[shipregistry@gibtelecom.net](mailto:shipregistry@gibtelecom.net)  
[marinesurveyor@gibtelecom.net](mailto:marinesurveyor@gibtelecom.net)

**Local Administrative Instruction – 0005**

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To: All local Agents and Operators

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**SEA AREAS AND SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHTS**

Pursuant to Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Safety etc) Ordinance 1993 and relevant Regulations contained thereunder, attached are the categorisations of Gibraltar sea areas and significant wave heights.

Further clarification if required, can be obtained from the Gibraltar Department of Shipping.

Captain C W Brand  
Maritime Administrator

This copy of the Administrative Instruction has been sent electronically and does not carry a signature or official stamp. A sign and stamped copy will be available upon request

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**Telephone No: (350) 46862 Centrex 3920; Fax No: (350) 47770 Centrex: 3218**  
**e-mail: [maritadmin@gibtelecom.net](mailto:maritadmin@gibtelecom.net)**

# CLASSIFICATIONS OF SEA AREAS

1. Gibraltar Sea areas within Gibraltar waters shall be divided into the following categories of waters-

## **Sheltered Waters**

Sheltered waters consist of-

### **Area “A”**

- (i) the area of water contained within the harbour breakwaters
- (ii) the area of water falling east of the line drawn between the northwest corner of the North Mole and the western end of the airport runway; and
- (iii) the area bound by a line drawn due north from the west end of the runway to where it meets the extended line of the frontier for British waters.

Vessels operating within these three areas of sheltered waters and crossing from one of the three areas to another (without any seaward deviation other than what is absolutely necessary for such crossing) shall be deemed to be operating in sheltered waters. Such crossing shall only take place in favourable weather conditions and with the prior approval of the port authority control tower.

## **Open Waters**

Open waters consist of all Gibraltar waters other than the areas defined as sheltered waters.

2. Other waters shall be subdivided into the following categories-

### **Area “B”**

This area includes the area of Gibraltar waters within the Bay of Gibraltar to the north of the line joining great Europa Point with Point Carnero.

### **Area “C”**

This area includes all waters other than the waters in Area “A” or “B”

**SEA AREAS AND CORRESPONDING SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHTS-**  
**(3-year average expressed in % of occurrence)**  
**(GIBRALTAR BAY)**  
**(GIBRALTAR STRAIT - Western /Eastern approach)**

**GIBRALTAR BAY**

<b>SWH</b>	<b>%</b>
<0.5m	62
1.0m	26.5
1.5m	6.2
2.0m	3.9
2.5m	0.9
3.0m	0.2
3.5m	0.1
4.0m	0.1
4.5m	0.1
5.0m	0.0
5.0m	0.0
>5.0m	0.0

**GIBRALTAR STRAIT - (Western approach)**

<b>SWH</b>	<b>%</b>
<0.5m	39
1.0m	43.5
1.5m	11
2.0m	4.1
2.5m	1.2
3.0m	0.5
3.5m	0.25
4.0m	0.2
4.5m	0.2
5.0m	0.03
>5.0m	0.02

**GIBRALTAR STRAIT - (Eastern approach)**

<b>SWH</b>	<b>%</b>
<0.5m	21.5
1.0m	30
1.5m	23.5
2.0m	12.5
2.5m	6.5
3.0m	3.0
3.5m	1.5
4.0m	1.1
4.5m	0.3
5.0m	0.07
>5.0m	0.03