Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS46-8.2.4.1

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 8.2

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.2.3

Author(s) / Submitter(s) China MSA: Jin Shengli, Liu Wei, Wang Wei, Yi Congbo, Xue Feng.

Revision statement of “VTS Users Guide Template” (Edition 1.2)

# Summary

Basing on the working paper of VTS Committee (VTS46-8.2.4 WP WG1 VTS Users Guide template task 1.2.3), China MSA has forwarded a new edition (edition 1.2) to VTS46. This document introduces the concerns during the revision and how to utilize the template.

The aims of the proposed Guideline are to provide guidance for VTS authorities to promulgate the requirements of a VTS in a concise and globally harmonized manner to:

• reduce the burden on masters obtaining the requirements of a VTS;

• minimize confusion to masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another; and

• by combining VTS users guides from different countries and regions, the template is revised to make the content and structure more reasonable and applicable.

The content of the template is complying with IMO Resolution A.857(20), at the same time, the format of the template will facilitate the efficiency and harmonize the use of VTS world widely.

## Purpose of the document

The Committee notes the information provided in this document and considers the draft Guideline with a view to forwarding it to Council for approval.

## Related documents

1. IMO Resolution A.857(20), GUIDELINES FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES, November 1997
2. Chapter 14 of VTS manual 2016.PROMULGATION OF VTS INFORMATION. 2016
3. RESOLUTION A.851(20) adopted on 27 November 1997
4. VTS Committee Work Programme 2018 - 2022(as amended at council 66). JUNE 2018

# Background

The VTS Users Guide template work subgroup was set up at the 45th session of VTS Committee in 2018, and fourteen delegates from ten countries and organizations participated in the group discussion (see annex 1). It is hoped that those participants will continue to participate in the work subgroup of this task in VTS46, and other representatives are warmly welcomed to participate in the group and help to revise the guideline.

The work paper (edition 1.1) was basically determined by the sub group in VTS 45th, and some participants expressed their opinions on some items, like categorisation coding of VTS, pilotage, reporting procedures, etc. In order to improve the universal applicability of the template and respond positively to the comments and suggestions put forward by participants, it is necessary to refer to the characteristics of VTS Users Guides in more different countries and regions.

In accordance with the request of the 45th session of VTS Committee, the Chinese delegation has collected VTS Users Guides and related documents from 7 countries and over 30 VTS centres. Based on the investigation and analyses of different VTS Users Guides, parts of the content and structure of the VTS Users Guide template (edition 1.1) have been revised to a new version (edition 1.2).

# Discussion

This document mainly discusses the following aspects:

## Call Sign/Title of VTS

The Call Sign /Title of the VTS in VTS Users Guides from different countries and regions is not clearly defined, which may cause confusion of mariners when calling VTS. In order to facilitate the mariners to contact with VTS more quickly and accurately, it is suggested that the Call Sign /Title of the VTS centre should be added to the chapter1(summary) of the template.

## Coverage boundaries of VTS area

Given that boundaries of VTS area have been clearly described in many countries, it is recommended to add the coverage of VTS area to the chapter 1(summary) of the template. The boundary of the whole VTS area can be marked by longitude, latitude or light buoy. It is suggested that the contact information of VTS Centre should be added in Chapter 1(summary), and the working time should be changed to service time.

## Applicable vessels

VTS Users Guides in most countries and regions only have descriptions of applicable ships, with no distinction between mandatory and voluntary participating vessels. In order to clarify the type and requirements of the applicable ship, it is recommended to retain the “mandatory participation” and “voluntary participation” in the “participating vessels” in the existing template.

## Categorization coding

For the following considerations, it is not recommended to present key information including service content in the form of categorisation coding in the template:

1. The categorisation coding procedure was first proposed in the 2012 edition of VTS Manual, but was deleted in the 2016 edition of VTS Manual.
2. The categorisation coding procedure is relatively complex for navigators to understand.
3. Key information such as VTS service information has been clearly stated in the template, and it is not necessary to present it in the form of a code again.

## VHF Procedures

Considering VHF working channels in different countries and regions are quite distinct in numbers and procedures, the following suggestions are given to provide information on VHF procedures more clearly:

1. Call signs, boundaries of coverage and related working VHF channels should be added in the column of VTS sectors of VHF Procedures in Chapter 3 of the template.
2. It is recommended to add a description of reporting points/lines in the report points/Lines column.
3. For VTS centres with a large number of VHF working channels or complicated procedures, the relevant information can be attached to the VTS Sketch map or as an independent annex after the map.

## 3.6 Reports

Without a unified standard, there are significant differences in terms of reporting types, time, contents and procedures among different countries and regions. Therefore, the following suggestions are proposed:

1. Refer to the requirements and format of the reporting system in IMO RESOLUTION A.851(20);
2. Some relevant format or required information may be presented in the form, in reference of the local regulations of VTS authorities;
3. For VTS centres with multiple types of reports, complicated forms and procedures, the relevant information can be attached in the form of an annex, which may be put after the sketch map.

## 3.7 Pilotage

1. Pilotage is essential for the safety of navigation of ships entering and leaving the port. It is recommended to keep relevant information in the template.

2. Since mandatory pilotage is not required in some regions, it is not recommended to separate pilotage as an individual part.

**3.8 Sketch map for VTS area**

A more detailed description of the requirements of the sketch map for VTS area is given in the last part of the template. For example:

1. The map shall include the following information: VTS area, subareas if any, reporting lines/point, direction to report, VHF channels.

2. The map may include diagrams to indicate key features of the VTS area(s), anchorages and berths, with particular reference to dangers and areas to avoid.

3. Annex is acceptable, for example, VHF Procedures or Reports.

**3.9 Amplifying notes**

1. Some important information while not directly related to a VTS could be put in this part.

2. In order to make the guilde more concise and clearer, the VTS authorities are recommended to only note the titles of rules and regulations, or related documents or websites for mariners to find the details of safety information, like Master’s guide or Notices to mariners.

# References

1. Procedure VHF Communication VTS and HCC (Rotterdam, Holland)

2. Https://www.portofamsterdam.com/en/shipping/vhf-channels#meldpunt(website of Amsterdam port)

3. Notices to mariners No.1-04 January 2018 NOTICES:1-44(Scheldt Area, Belgian)

4. VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE 2018(Republic of Korea)

5. PORT MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 65 OF 1998(Straits of Malacca and Singapore)

6. Master’s guide (Archipelago VTS and Helsinki VTS, Finland)

7. GOFREP Master’s Guide (GOFREP VTS, Gulf of Finland)

8. Japan VTS CENTER USER MANUAL

9. sound VTS (Swedish maritime administration)

10. World Vessel Traffic Service Guide

More details in Annex 2

# Action requested of the Committee

It is hoped that the committee will consider the suggestions of the edition 1.2 of the “GUIDELINES FOR promulgating the requirements of a VTS to mariners – A VTS Users Guide template”.

**Annex1:**

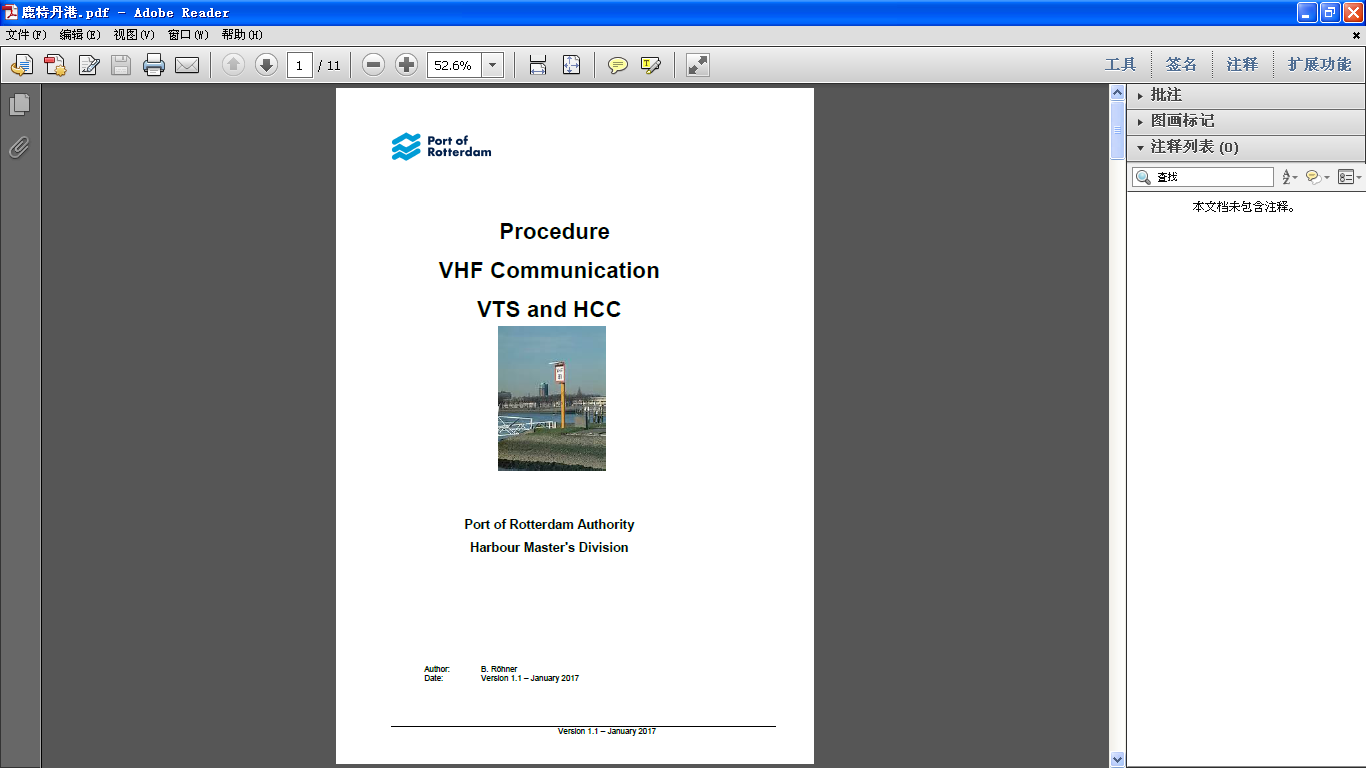
**List of participants of** **sub-group (Task 1.2.3) in VTS45 :**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Name | Country/organization |
| 1 | Jin sheng li | China MSA |
| 2 | TRAINOR Neil | Australian Marine Safety Authority |
| 3 | SUNDKLEV Monica | Swedish Transport Agency |
| 4 | Liu wei | China MSA-Shanghai |
| 5 | BOGAERT Els | Belgium |
| 6 | Lt.Michele Landi | Italy Coast Guard |
| 7 | CARSON-JACKSON Jillian | Nautical institution |
| 8 | CDR Hideki NOGUCHI | Japan Coast Guard |
| 9 | Takashi Tanaka | Japan Coast Guard |
| 10 | SVENTESSON Marco | Swedish Maritime Administration |
| 11 | TZE KERN Teo | Singapore Maritime and port authority |
| 12 | TANG KAI KEUNG | China Hong Kong Marine Department |
| 13 | Xue feng | China MSA |
| 14 | Wang wei | China MSA-Shandong |

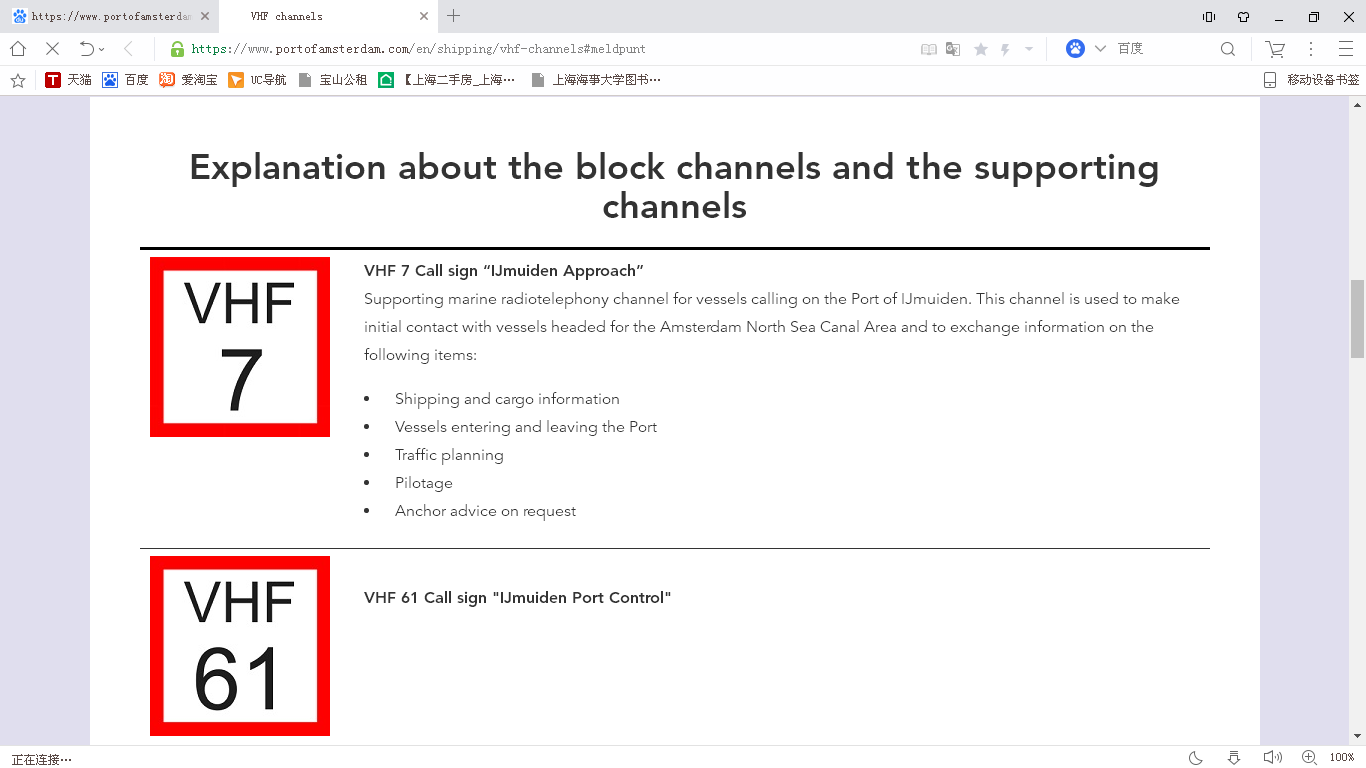
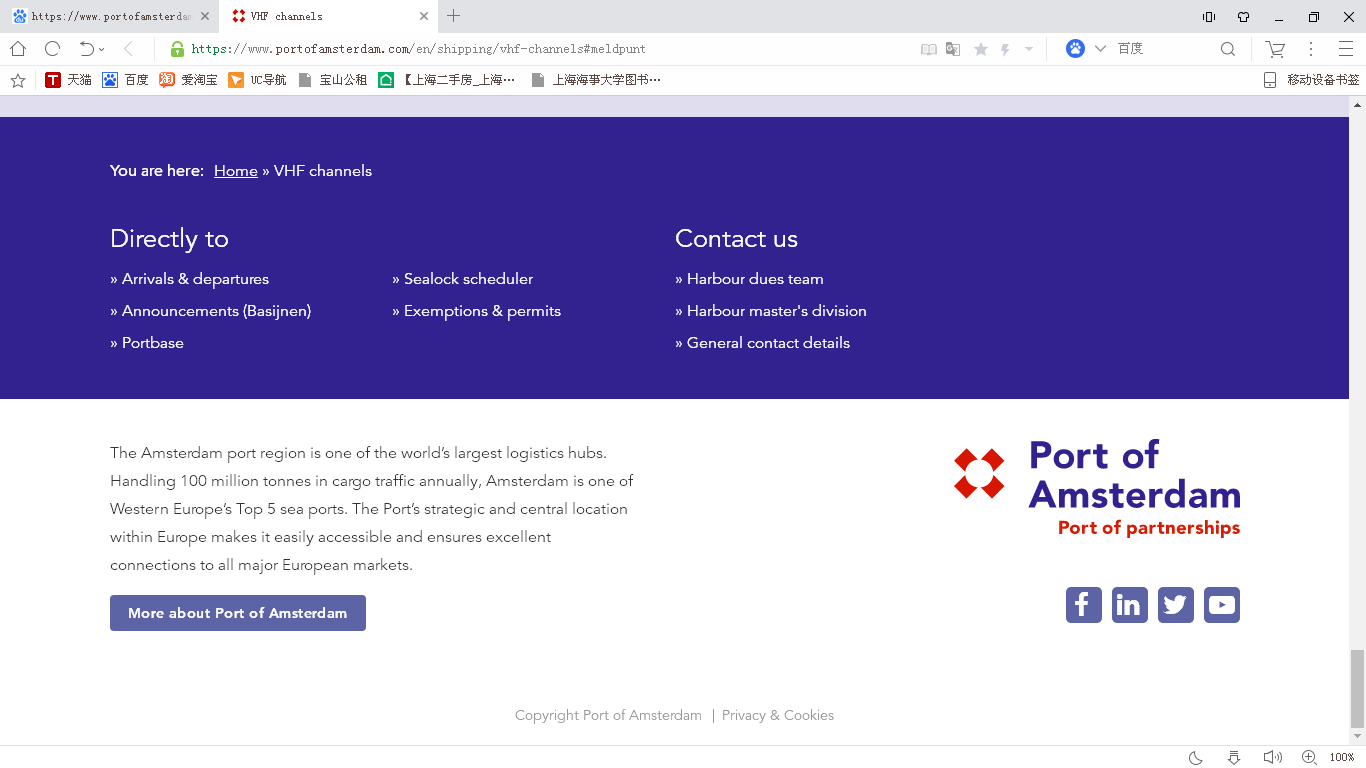
**Annex2:**

**List of VTS Users Guide revision reference：**

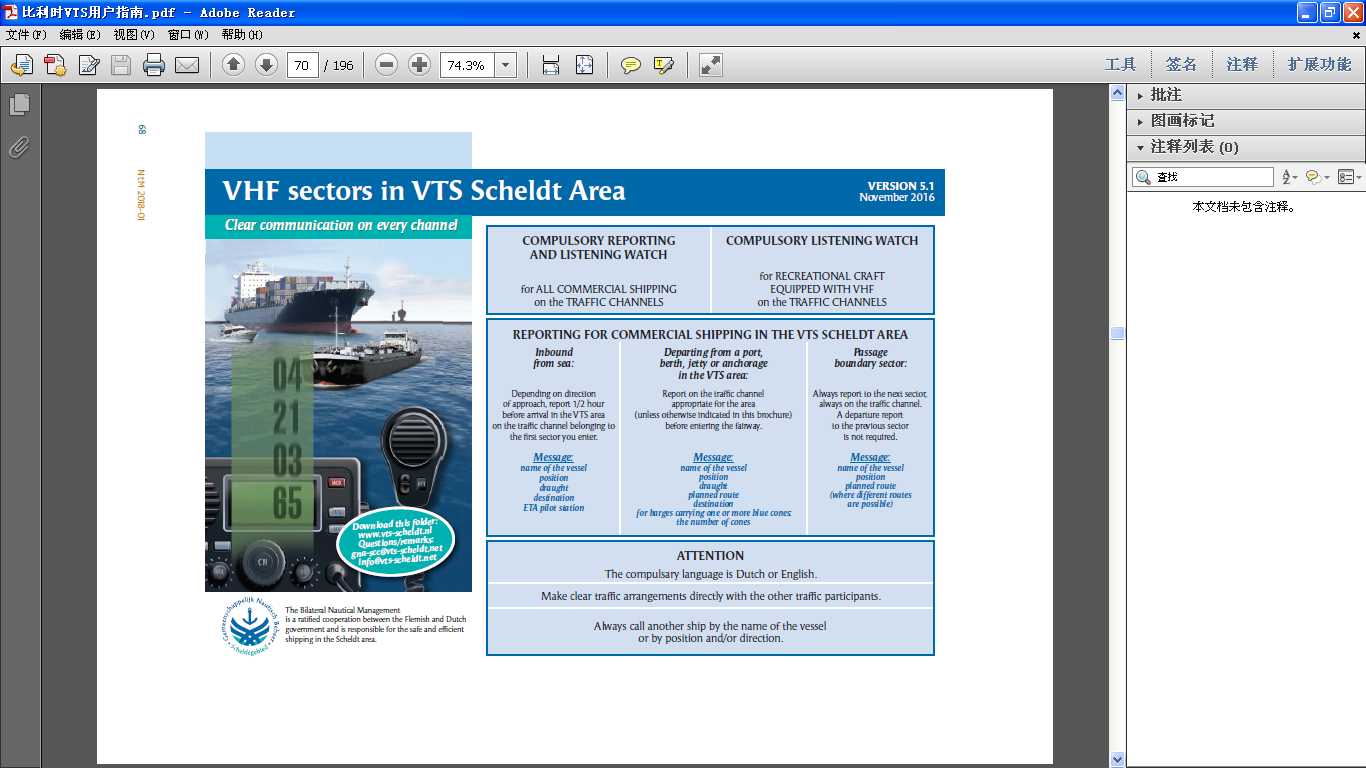
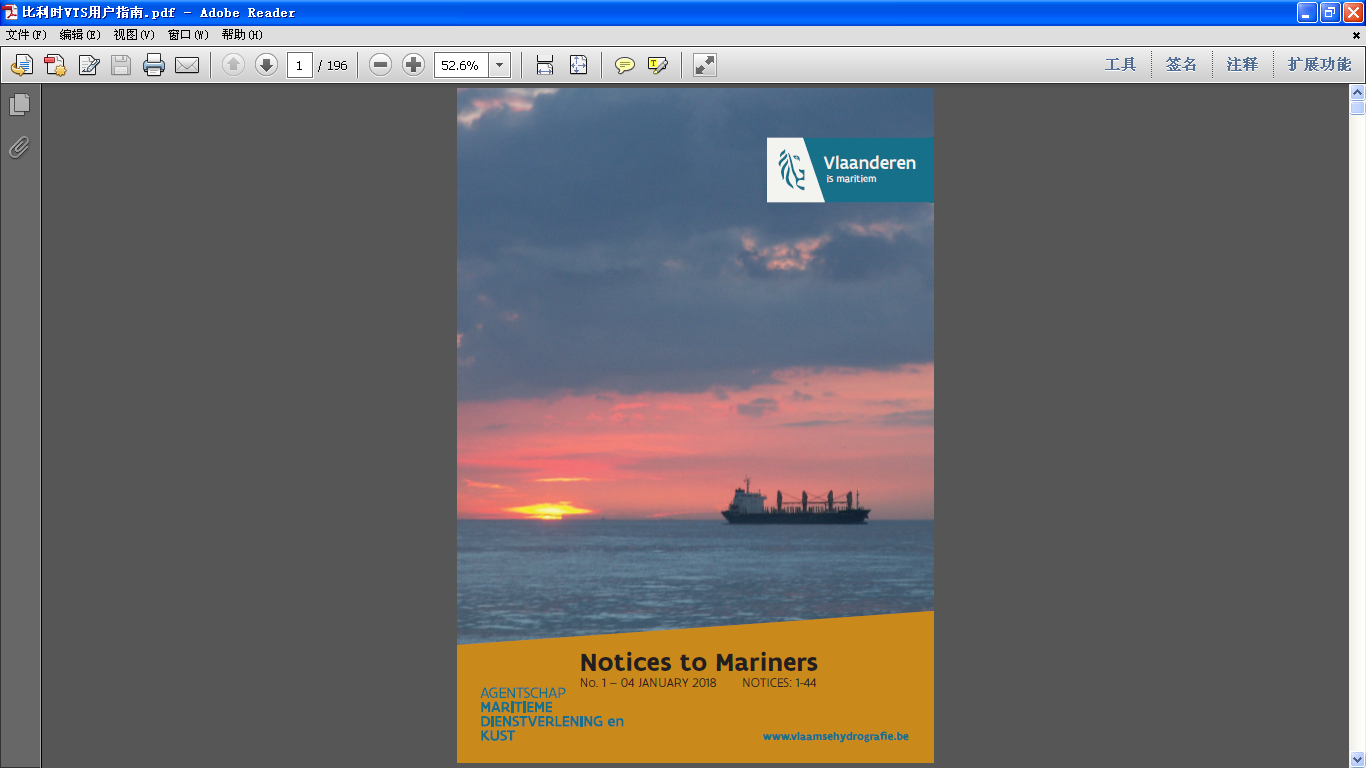
1. Procedure VHF Communication VTS and HCC(Rotterdam)

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2. <Https://www.portofamsterdam.com/en/shipping/vhf-channels#meldpunt(website> of Amsterdam port)

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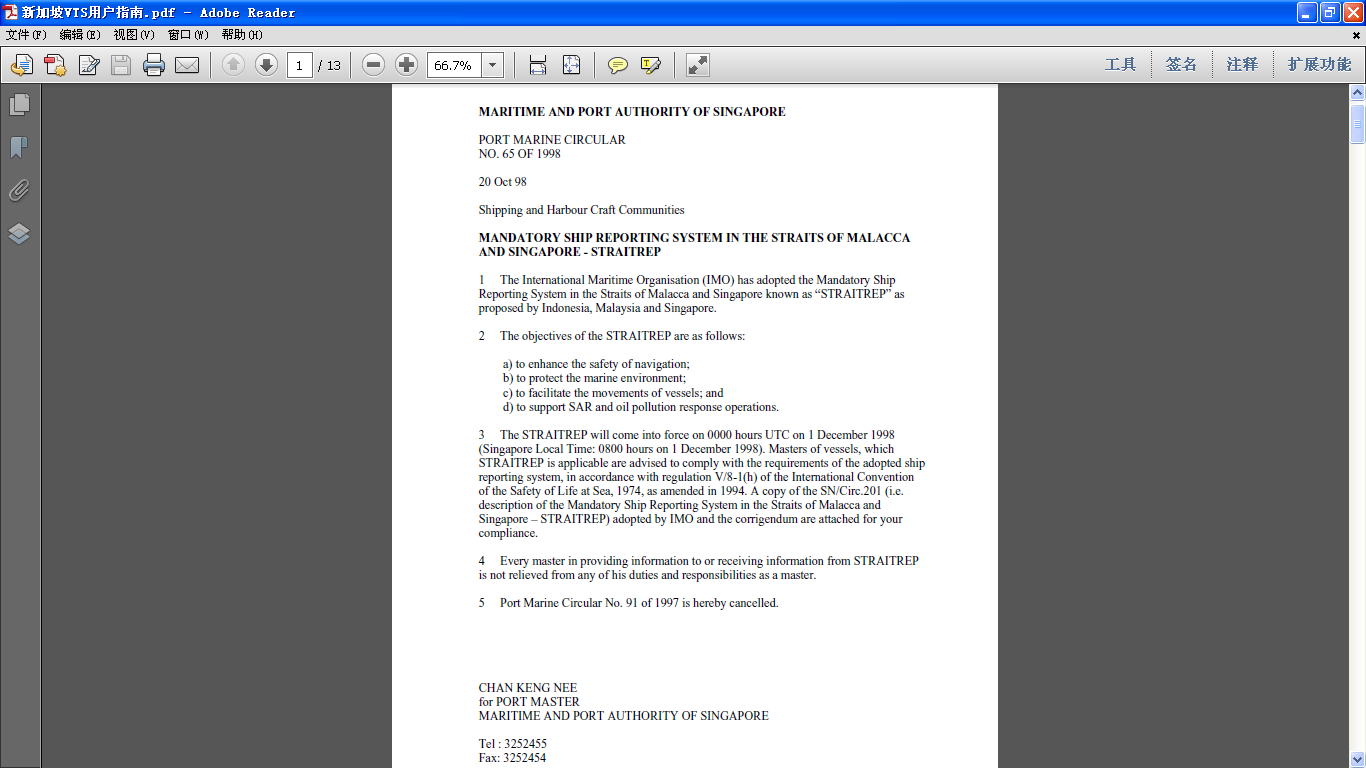
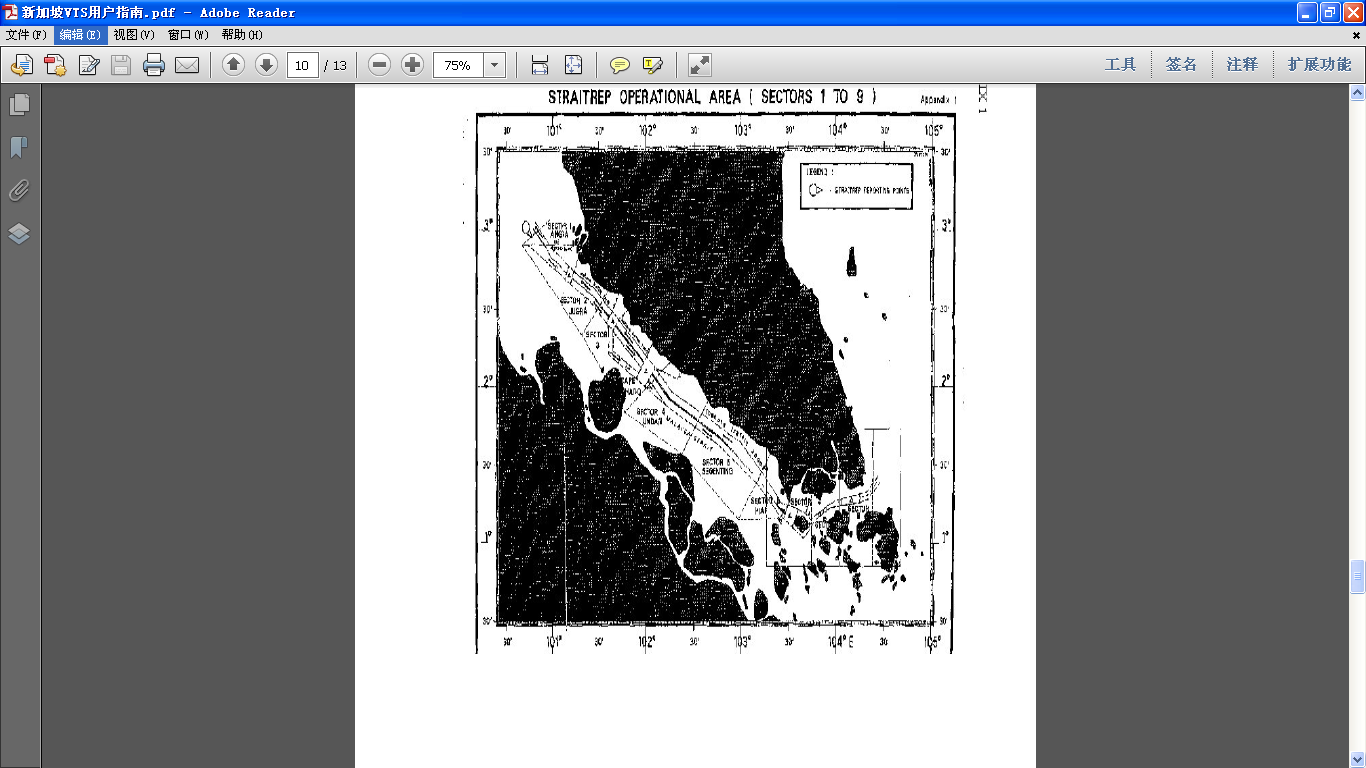
3. Notices to mariners No.1-04 January 2018 NOTICES:1-44(Scheldt Area)

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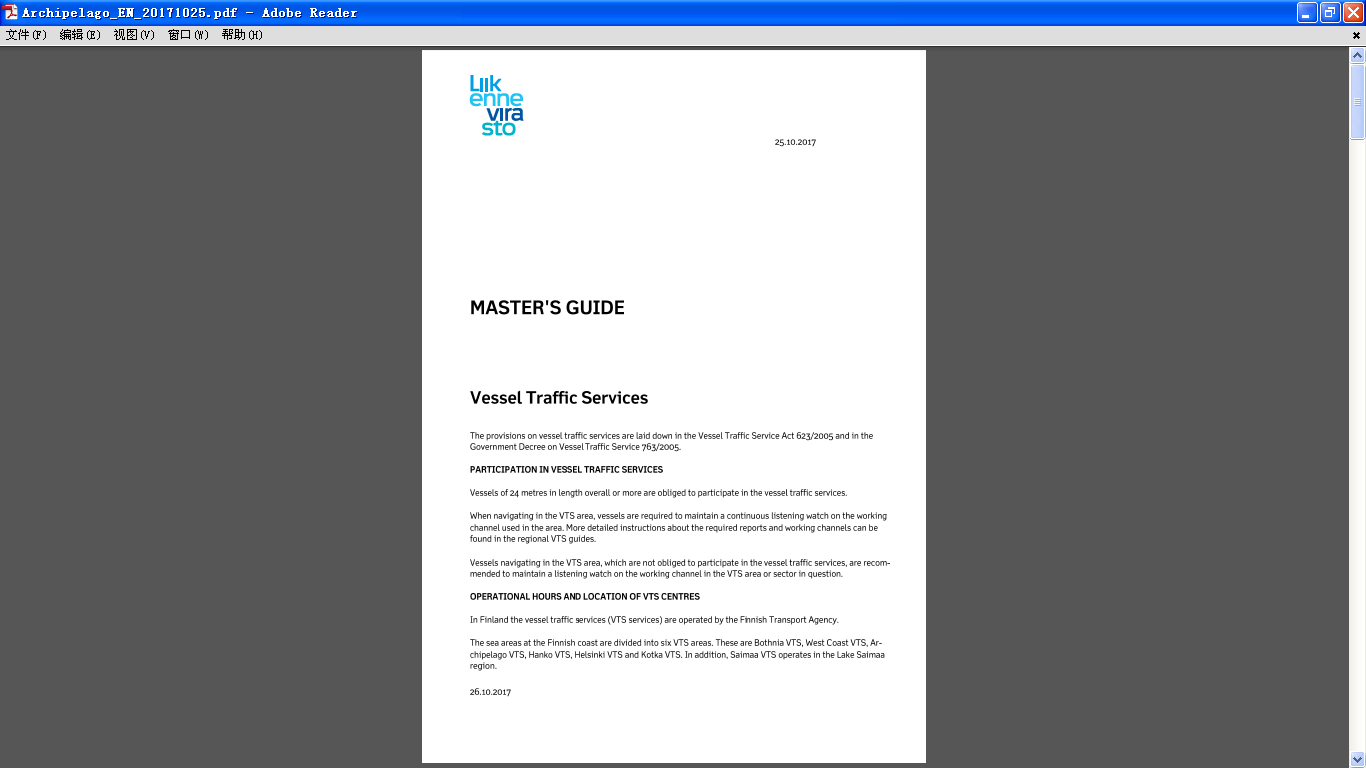
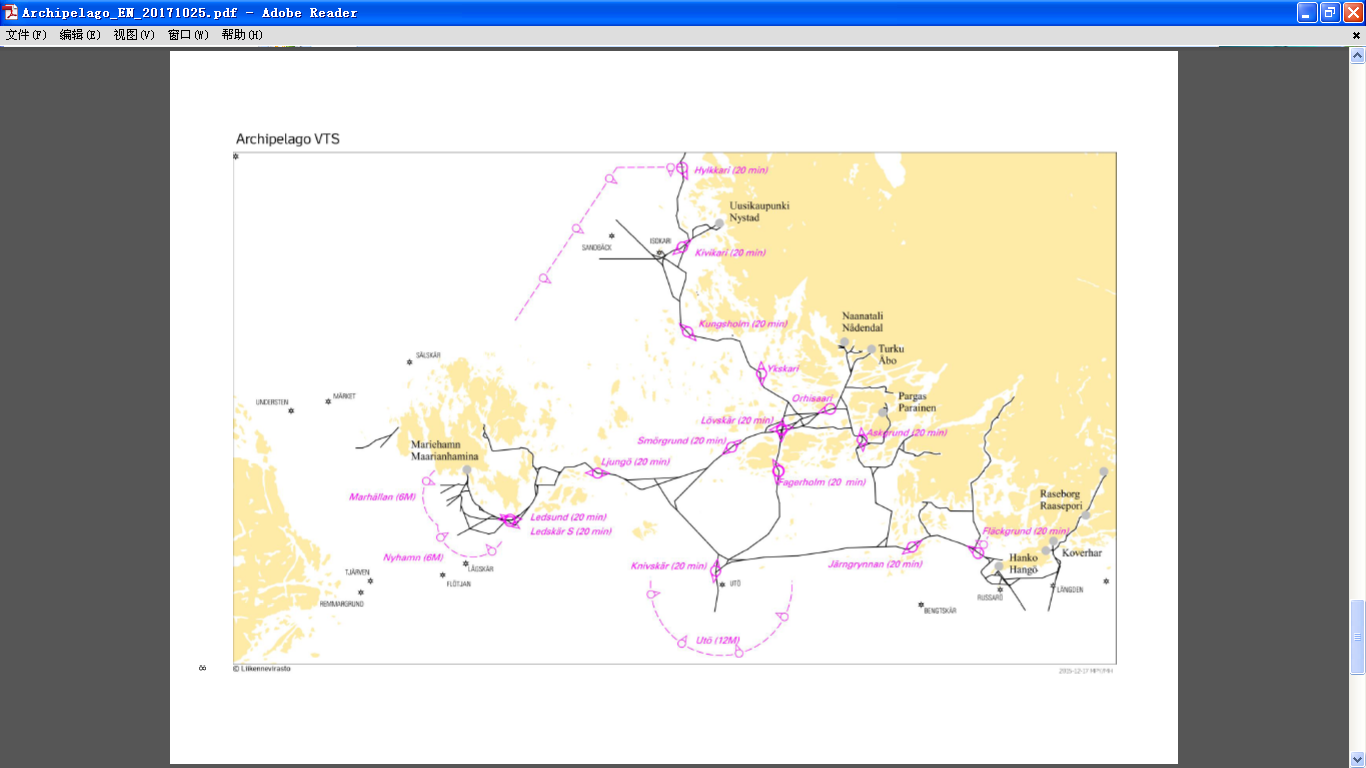
4. VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE 2018(Republic of Korea)

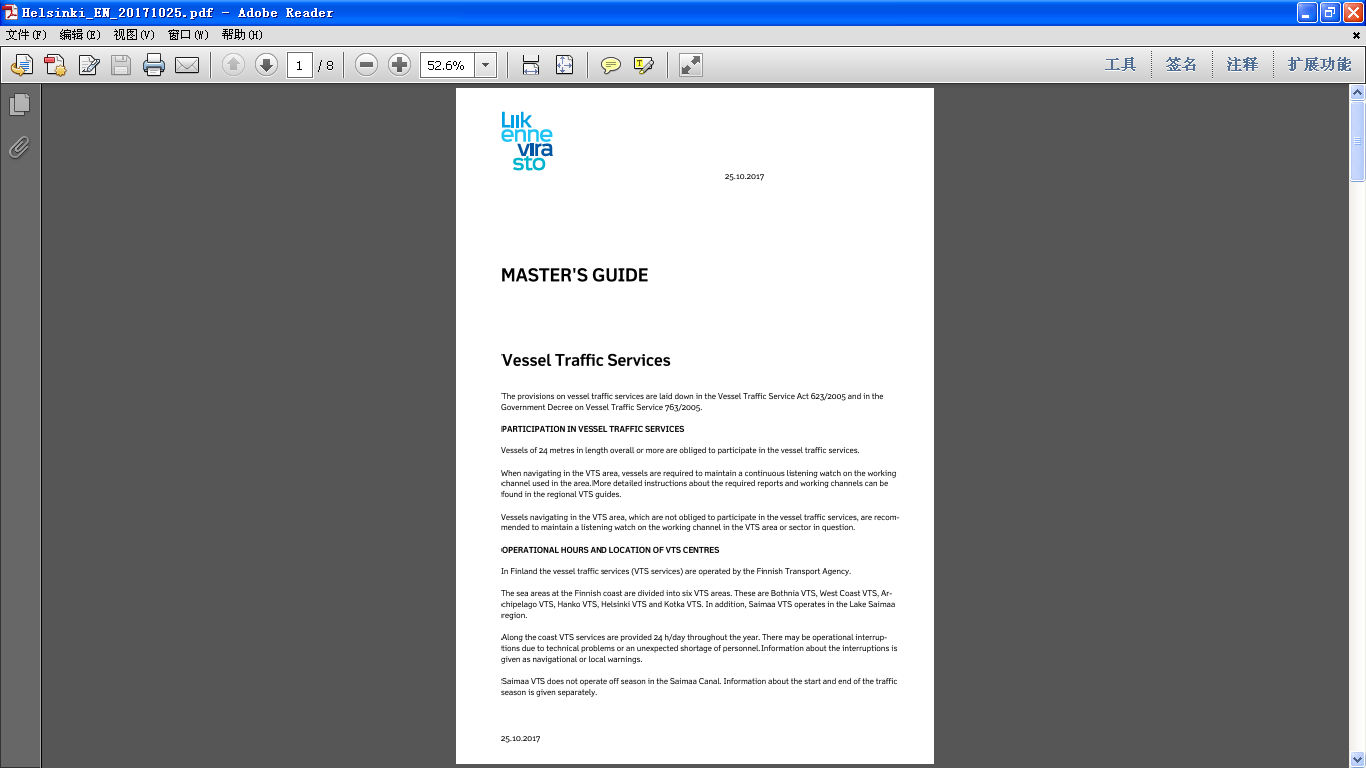
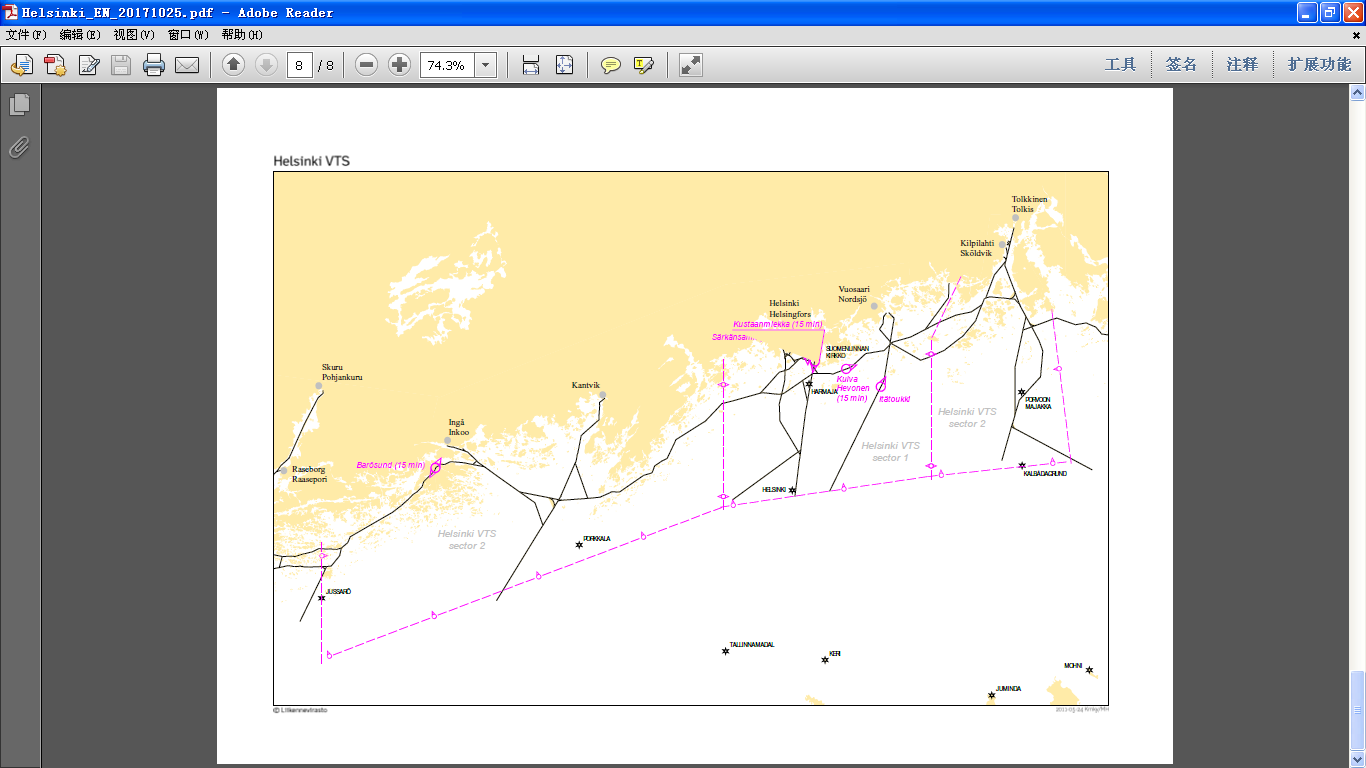
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5. PORT MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 65 OF 1998(Straits of Malacca and Singapore)

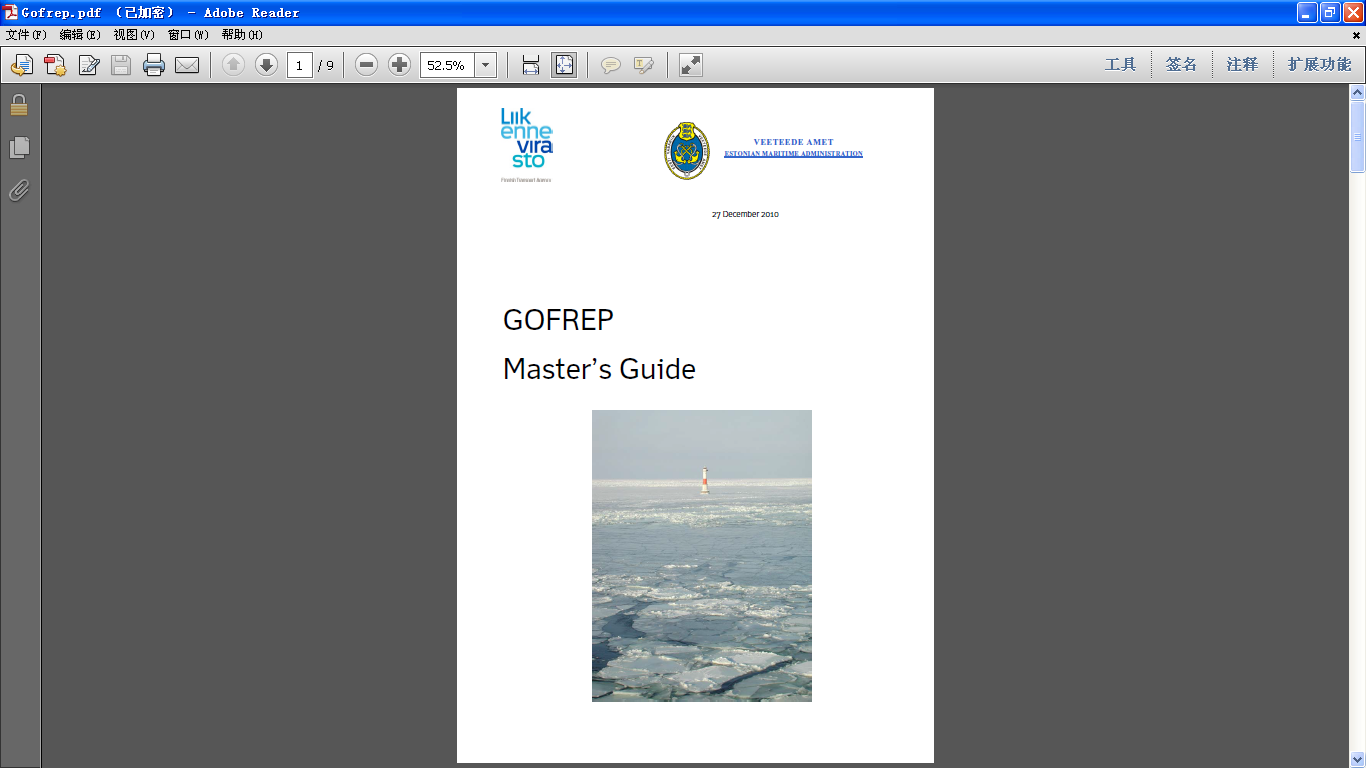
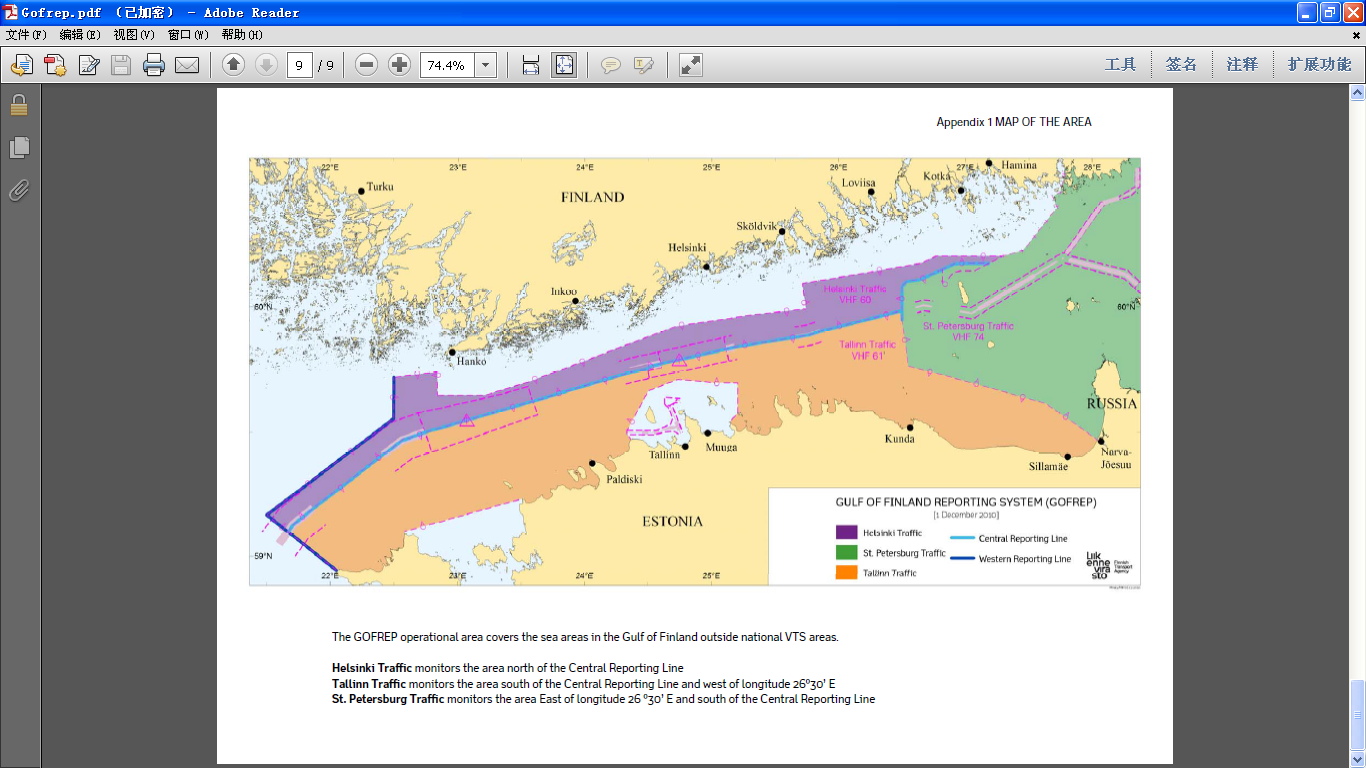
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6. Master’s guide (Finland)

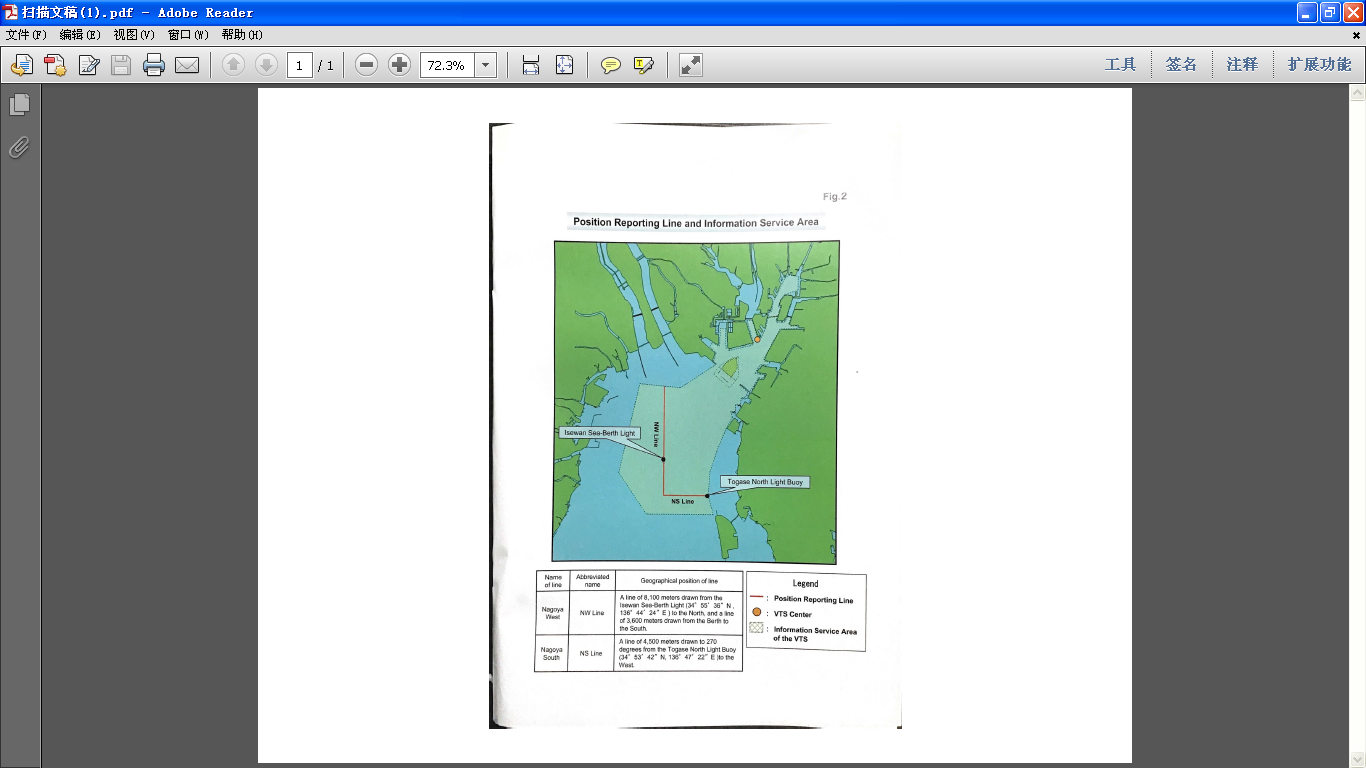
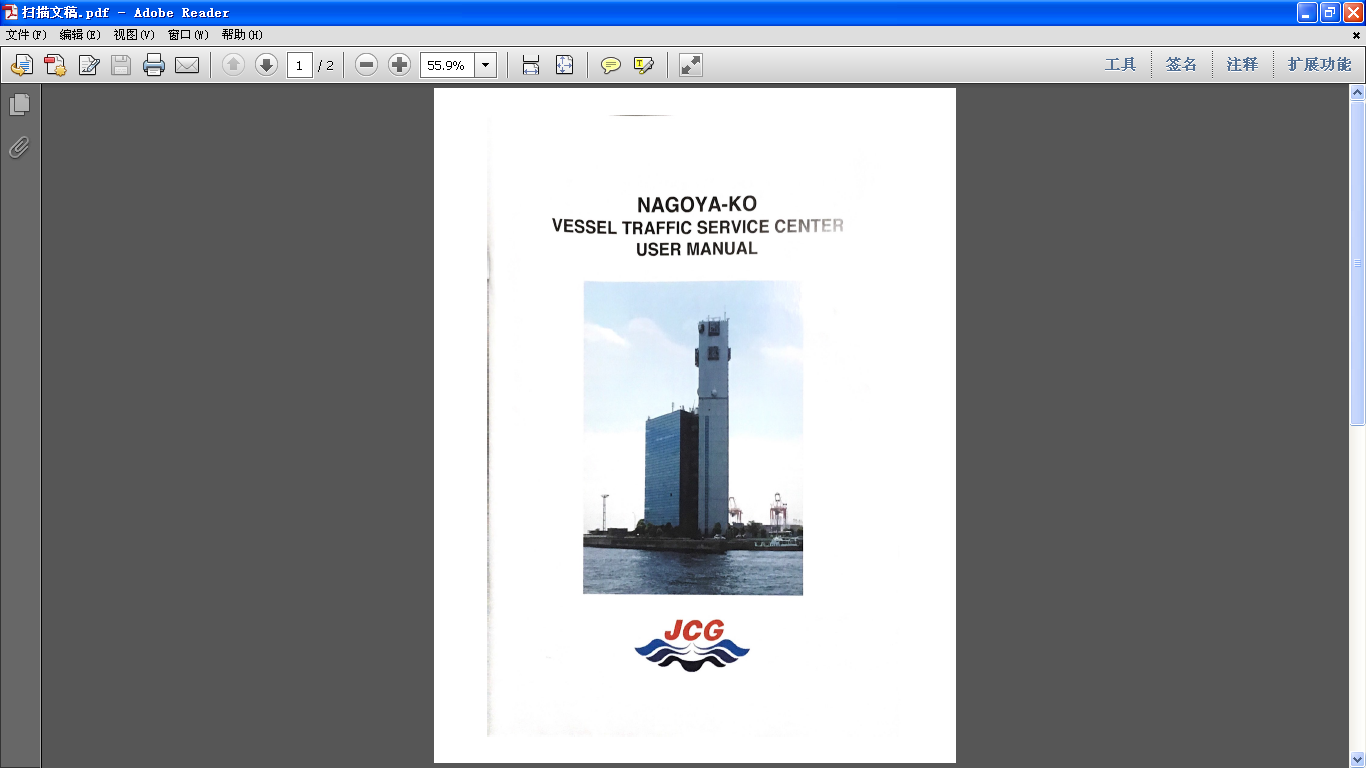
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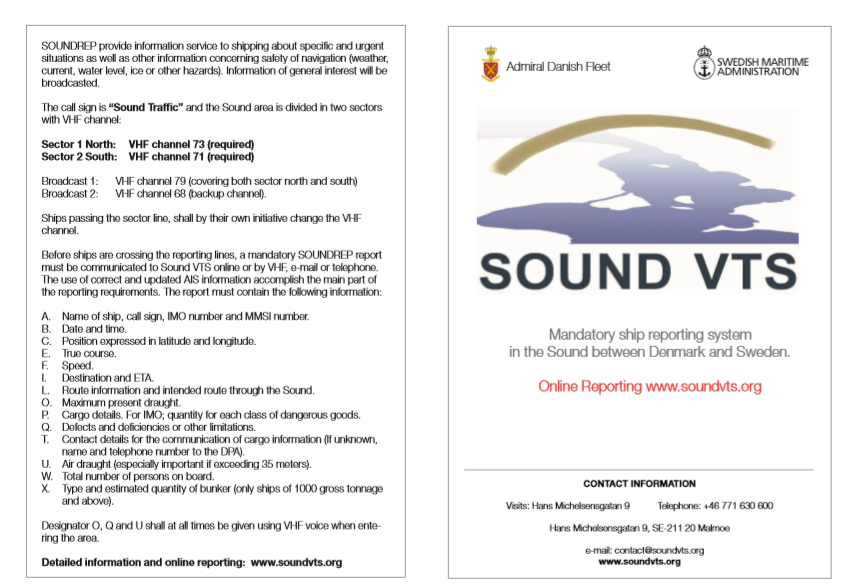
7. GOFREP Master’s Guide (Gulf of Finland)

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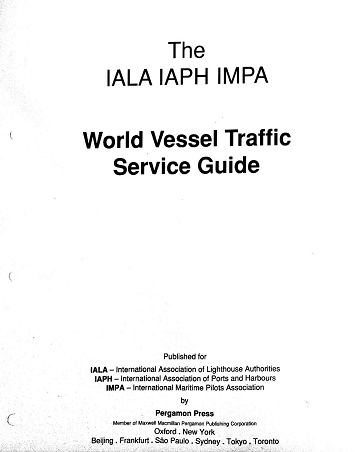
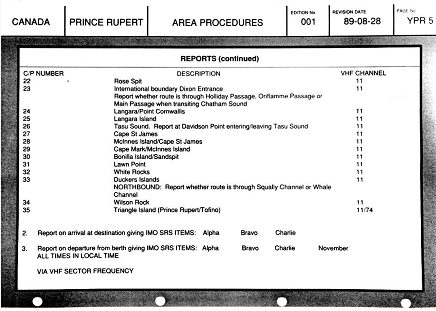
8. Japan VTS CENTER USER MANUAL

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9. Swedish sound VTS



10. World Vessel Traffic Service Guide

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)