Archipelago VTS

About Vessel Traffic Services

The provisions on vessel traffic services are laid down in the Vessel Traffic Service Act 623/2005 and in the Government Decrees on Vessel Traffic Service 763/2005, 1798/2009, 1304/2011, 1216/2018 and 93/2024.

Participation in Vessel Traffic Services

Vessels of 24 metres in length overall or more are obliged to participate in the vessel traffic services.
When navigating in the VTS area, vessels are required to maintain a continuous listening watch on the working channel used in the area. Furthermore, vessels are obliged to obey the rules relevant to the traffic in the VTS area. More detailed instructions about the required reports and working channels can be found in the regional VTS guide.
Vessels navigating in the VTS area, which are not obliged to participate in the vessel traffic services, are recommended to maintain a listening watch on the working channel in the VTS area or sector in question.

Operational hours and location of VTS Centres

In Finland the vessel traffic services (VTS services) are operated by Fintraffic Vessel Traffic Services Ltd (Fintraffic VTS). VTS centres are located in Turku and Helsinki. The sea areas at the Finnish coast are divided into six VTS areas. These are Bothnia VTS, West Coast VTS, Archipelago VTS, Hanko VTS, Helsinki VTS and Kotka VTS. In addition, Saimaa VTS operates in the Saimaa deep water fairway.
Along the coast VTS services are provided 24 h/day throughout the year. There may be operational interruptions due to technical problems or an unexpected shortage of personnel. Information about the interruptions is given as navigational or local warnings. Saimaa VTS only provides services during its period of operations. The period of operations is largely equivalent to the opening hours of the Saimaa Canal, but Fintraffic VTS will provide information about when the operational period begins and ends.

Service and languages

Vessel Traffic Service includes providing information, responding to developing unsafe situations, and organizing traffic.
To improve safety and to create a consistent maritime situational awareness, English is used as the primary communication language in the VTS areas along the Finnish coast. As required, vessel traffic service is also provided in Finnish and Swedish.

Information
is given to all vessels whenever necessary, at set intervals, when they report or when a vessel so requests. The information to vessels comprises matters which affect the vessels' safe and smooth navigation. Such information includes, among other things, traffic in the VTS area, weather conditions, pilotage, icebreaking, towage, and port operations, as well as information on the status of navigational aids and fairways. VTS monitors the movement of vessels and, if necessary, provides information to the vessel about a developing unsafe situation.

Responding to developing unsafe situations:
Identified vessels are assisted in navigation upon request or when deemed necessary by the VTS.
Navigational assistance may include information about the vessel's position and bearings/courses over ground to for example the fairway centre line or the pilot boarding position. Bearings or COG's can also be given so that vessels can pass navigational hazards, for example shoals, at a safe distance.
Assistance is advisory and normative in nature. The responsibility for navigating the vessel remains with the vessel's master.
The information, warnings, advice, and instructions provided by the VTS are based the situational awareness system at the VTS center.

Vessel traffic is organized
in order to improve traffic flow and safety. Methods of organization include, among others, permanent meeting and overtaking prohibition areas, departure procedures for ports, and traffic organization based on time or distance. The aim is to prevent dangerous meeting and overtaking situations and congestion.

Contact information

Emergency number in Finland

Emergency number in Finland
112

Only call the emergency number 112 in real emergencies when you need urgent assistance from the authorities.

Maritime Rescue Centres

National Maritime Search and Rescue alarm number
VHF 16 / DSC 70 / MF-DSC 2187,5 kHz
Alarm hotline +358 294 1000

Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre MRCC Turku
VHF 16 / DSC 70 / MF-DSC 2187,5 kHz
mrcc@raja.fi
Alarm hotline +358 294 1001

Maritime Rescue Subcentre MRSC Helsinki
VHF 16 / DSC 70 / MF-DSC 2187,5 kHz
mrsc.helsinki@raja.fi
Alarm hotline +358 294 1002

Archipelago VTS

Archipelago VTS
VHF 71
archipelago.vts@fintraffic.fi
+358 20 448 6521

Western Finland Vessel Traffic Centre Supervisor
supervisors.west@fintraffic.fi
+358 20 448 6522

All phone calls will be recorded.

Archipelago VTS Ports

Yara Uusikaupunki
VHF 10 (Only during mooring and unmooring), VHF 77 (During cargo ops)
uki_vuoromestari@yara.com
+358 50 524 0064

Port of Uusikaupunki, Hepokari
VHF 13 (Only during mooring and unmooring)
portservice@ukiport.fi
+358 44 767 1000

Port of Turku
VHF 12
satamavalvonta@portofturku.fi
+358 2267 4122

Port of Naantali
VHF 11
satama@portofnaantali.fi
+358 44 733 4550

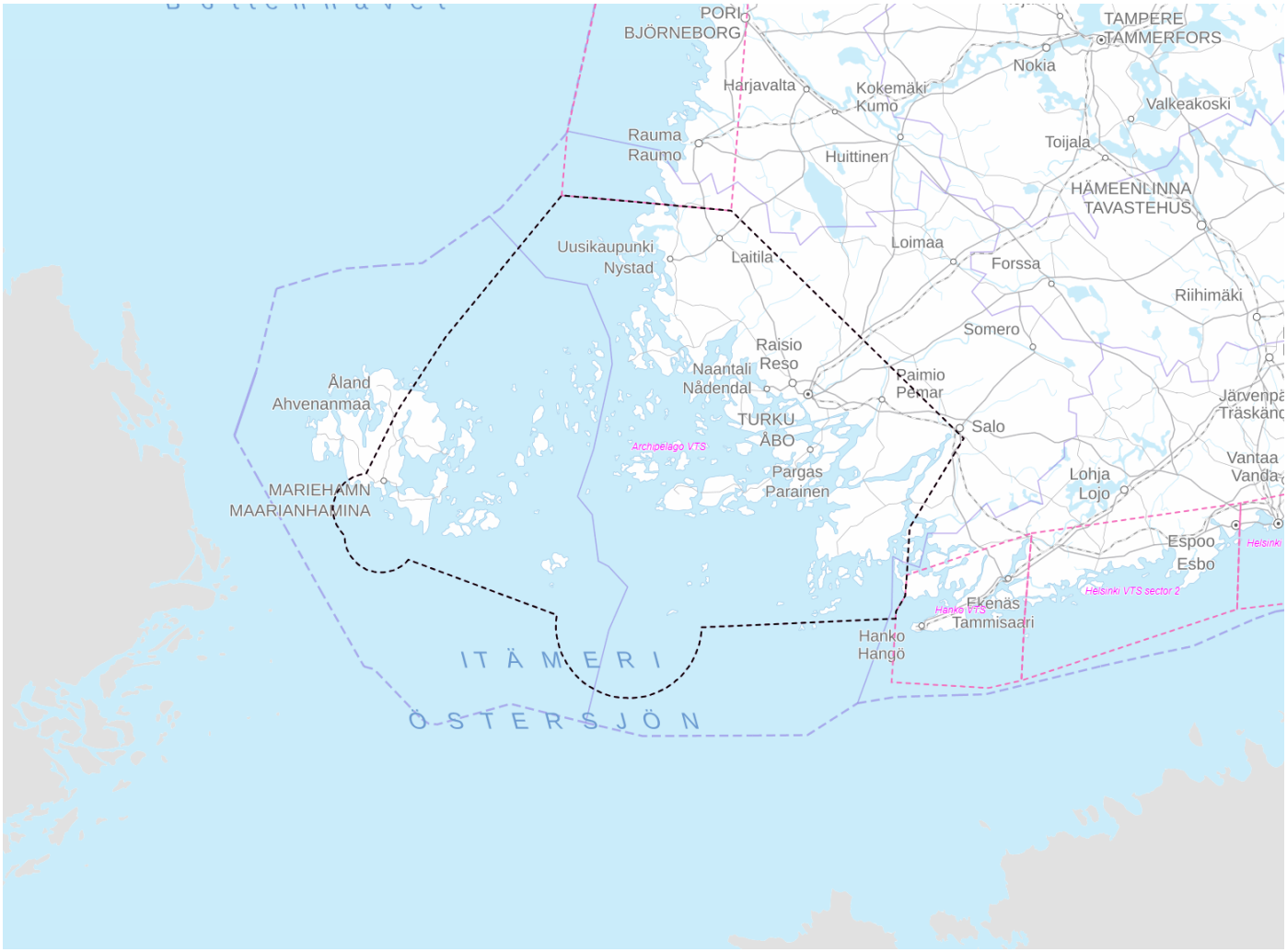
Port of Långnäs
VHF 12
+358 1835 683

Pilot Dispatch Archipelago Area

Pilot Dispatch Archipelago Area
pilotdispatch.archipelago@finnpilot.fi
+358 29 5253 460

Get familiar with Archipelago VTS area

The VTS Area covers the Archipelago Sea, including merchant shipping lanes. The eastern boundary is Fläckgrund light, the northern boundary Hylkkari light and at sea the boundary line follows the outer limits of the VTS Area. The VTS Area also covers the areas administered by the Port of Turku and the Port of Naantali. The VTS Area does not cover the areas administered by other ports.
The boundary line of the Archipelago VTS Area runs between the following corner points:
1) From Hylkkari light on Isokari in position 60°57.2'N, 021°09.5'E westward to position 60º57.2’N, 020°46.5’E, and further to Rannö lighthouse 60º31.7’N, 020°11.9’E
2) 6 nautical miles from Marhällan light (60º01.9’N, 019º52.3’E)
3) 6 nautical miles from Nyhamn lighthouse (59º57.6’N, 019º57.3’E)
4) 12 nautical miles from Utö lighthouse (59º46.9’N, 021º22.1’E)
5) In the east, from Fläckgrund light 59º52.4’N, 022º50.2’E to position 59º55.0'N 022º53.0'E, and further to Förby harbour 60º06.5'N 022º53.0'E



Archipelago VTS Area Info

Reporting procedures

The working channel of Archipelago VTS is VHF 71.

Reports should include the following information:

- Name of the vessel
- Name of reporting point
- Destination
- Intended route. If an alternative route is selected, this must be reported.

Required reports

- upon entry into the VTS Area

- before anchoring
- before leaving an anchorage
- after berthing
- departure report before leaving port; for Port of Turku and Port of Naantali, see item ”Departure permissions"
- at the reporting points in the area:
    - 20 minutes before passing the following reporting points:

1. Fagerholm
2. Lövskär
3. Smörgrund
4. Hylkkari*
5. Ljungö, westbound vessels report their selected route
6. Ledsund or S of Ledskär, eastbound vessels report their selected route
7. Fläckgrund**
8. Askgrund
9. Marhällan or Korsö***

* Southbound vessels shall report 20 minutes before passing Hylkkari light to Archipelago VTS on VHF channel 71.
* Northbound vessels shall report 20 minutes before passing Hylkkari light to West Coast VTS on VHF channel 9.
** Westbound vessels shall report 20 minutes before passing Fläckgrund light to Archipelago VTS on VHF channel 71.
** Eastbound vessels shall report 20 minutes before passing Fläckgrund light to Hanko VTS on VHF channel 67.
*** Vessels bound for Mariehamn shall report 20 minutes before passing either Marhällan or Korsö depending on which fairway they are going to use. Vessels leaving from Mariehamn shall report which fairway they are going to use when giving a departure report.

- when passing the following reporting points:

10. Orhisaari, only westbound; vessels report their selected route

- Vessels are required to report 10 minutes before passing Långnäs.
- Vessels are required to report 10 minutes before entering, departing or crossing a merchant shipping lane.

More detailed information about the services provided in the harbour areas and the information required of vessels can be found in item “Harbour areas”.

Reporting procedures for ferries

East of Kihti Lighthouse (60º 04,6’ N 021º 08,3’ E), commuter and Archipelago ferries with an operational Automatic Identification System (AIS) are required to report according to the procedures listed in
Reporting procedures
, only when the visibility is less than one nautical mile.

Departure permissions

Before leaving the Port of Turku or Port of Naantali, the vessel must request permission to depart.
The permission to depart issued by the VTS is valid for 20 minutes, during which time the vessel must get underway.
The vessel is required to give a report when underway. If the vessel’s departure is delayed, it will have to request a new permission to depart.
In Aura River, the departure permissions do not apply to vessels under 45 meters (LoA); see item “Harbour areas - Turku".

Meeting and overtaking prohibitions

Meeting and overtaking is permanently prohibited in the following areas covered by Archipelago VTS:

1. **Lövskär**
   : Buoys Lövskär and Baggisgrundet – buoy Kristina between longitudes 021º 43,3’ E and 021º 45,2’ E in Utö-Naantali fairway.
2. **Ledsund**
   : Buoy Remmargrundet – buoy Storgrundet between longitudes 020° 09,7’ E and 020° 11,8′ E in Ledskär parallel fairway.
3. **Väst Prästskär**
   : Buoys Prästkär 3 and Prästkär 4 – Edge mark Finngrund and buoy Prästskärsgrund between latitudes 60° 03,0′ N ja 60° 03,6′ N in Ledskär parallel fairway.
4. **Ost Prästskär**
   : Buoys Strömmingsgrundet and Prästskärskobben – buoy Prästkär itä between latitudes 60° 02,6′ N and 60° 03,5′ N in Nyhamn-Rödskär fairway. The prohibition

does not apply to meeting and overtaking situations in which at least one of the vessels has a maximum length of less than 45 meters.

5. **Ljungö**
   : Buoy Sånöklubb – sector light Ljungö between longitudes 020º 40,7’ E and 020º 42,0’ E in Nyhamn-Rödskär fairway.
6. **Hjulgrund**
   : Buoys Apotekaren – Inre Julholmskläppen between longitudes 020º 22,2’ E and 020º 23,5’ E in Apteekkari fairway.
7. **Rönngrund**
   : Buoy Paukut – Buoy Kruununmaa between latitudes 60º 17,3’ N and 60º 16,3’ N in Isokari-Lövskär fairway.
8. **Kungsholm**
   : Edge mark Kungsholm – buoy Skäri between latitudes 60° 29,7′ N and 60° 30,4′ N in Isokari-Lövskär fairway. The prohibition does not apply to meeting and overtaking situations in which at least one of the vessels has a maximum length of less than 45 meters.
9. **Suntinkari**

   -
   Nuhja
   : Buoys Suntinkari and Ruuhikivikko – Nuhja between longitudes 021° 19,0′ E and 021° 22,1′ E in Hepokari fairway.

The meeting and overtaking prohibition areas do not apply to tugs when they are assisting within the meeting and overtaking prohibition area, or to vessels performing icebreaking assistance.

In Port of Turku:

1. **Kuuva light**

   (60º 24,4’ N 022º 07,5’ E)
   – Port of Turku
2. **Pansio fairway**
3. **Perno fairway**

- The meeting and overtaking prohibitions in Port of Turku do not apply when at least one of the vessels involved is less than 45 metres in length (LoA) and the

vessels have made a mutual agreement on the Archipelago VTS working channel (VHF 71) regarding the meeting or overtaking. In such cases, the vessel under 45 metres in length must take the initiative to coordinate a safe position for meeting or overtaking.
- The passage of the larger vessel must remain unobstructed at all times.
- Vessels under 45 metres in length (LoA) may meet without prior agreement on VHF.

Speed limits

1. In the Apteekkari fairway between buoy Märrskär and buoy Julkläpp 24 km/h
2. Smörgrund–Keitsor 28 km/h
3. Keitsor–Lilla Björnholm 32 km/h
4. In the vicinity of the Korpo ferry (Retais front–Holstasnäs) 16 km/h
5. Stormälö–Haverö 28 km/h
6. Rajakari–Ajonpää 22 km/h
7. Rajakari–Kuuva 26 km/h
8. Kuuva–Buoy T18A 16 km/h
9. Buoy T18A–Turku 11 km/h
10. Svartholm–Hallonholm 22 km/h
11. Tallholm–Hallonholm 22 km/h
12. Maanpää-Jänissaari in the Pukinsalmi fairway 46 km/h

Anchoring

A vessel must always notify both the VTS and the Finnish Border Guard when anchoring in Finland’s territorial waters. The vessel must make the notification either itself or through its agent. In addition, a vessel anchoring in territorial waters is required to make an electronic customs declaration, even if the vessel is not going to call at a Finnish port.
After leaving a port in Finland, the vessel must also check with the Finnish Border Guard whether anchoring in Finnish territorial waters is possible. Also in this case, a vessel remaining at anchor must make an electronic customs declaration.
Anchoring in the Ajonpää anchorage area (Port of Naantali):

- Only one vessel at a time is allowed in the anchorage area
- The maximum length over all (LOA) is 120 m
- Permission to anchor is granted by Archipelago VTS
- The anchorage area is intended for short-term anchoring, maximum 12 hours. In order to exceed the 12-hour limit, a new permission to anchor is required.

- Vessels must request permission to leave anchorage area 20 minutes prior to weighing anchor.
- Vessels at anchor must ensure that the vessel under no circumstances starts drifting into the fairway area
- The anchorage area must not be used if the wind speed exceeds 15 m/s

Aids to Navigation

1. Remotely operated AtoNs
Upon request, VTS can adjust the brightness of aids to navigation in the Långnäs-Färjsundet (Godby) fairway.

2. Permanent Virtual AtoNs (V-AIS)
There are no permanent V-AIS-AtoNs in the Archipelago VTS area.

3. Fault Reporting
AtoNs not working correctly? Please inform Archipelago VTS by VHF radio on channel 71 or call Turku Radio 0800-181818.

Notice of channel use

Use of channels that deviates from the channel design refers to a situation where a vessel uses a channel in a manner that deviates from the channel's design and the adequacy of the channel space cannot be ensured based on the design. If the vessel's static draught is greater than the channel's design draught taking into account the current water level, the vessel shall ensure that her net under keel clearance remains adequate and demonstrate it to the VTS Centre that is responsible for monitoring the fairway.
Vessel's operator, agent or master shall give the notice of channel use at least 24 hours before its arrival at the pilot boarding position, or if the vessel is expected to arrive in less than 24 hours, no later than when the vessel has left the port of departure for a Finnish port. A vessel departing a Finnish port shall give the notice of channel use as soon as possible, at latest when the departure report is given.

The notice of channel use shall include the following items:
1. Ship identification details
2. The channel or channel section the ship intends to use in a manner deviating from the channel design
3. Planned control measures for maintaining the net underkeel clearance
4. Length between perpendiculars and maximum breadth (LBP, Breadth)
5. Static draught
6. Centre of buoyancy (KB)
7. Centre of gravity (KG)
8. Metacentric height (GM)

9. Block coefficient (Cb)
10. Individual underkeel clearance calculation based on the information above
When ensuring the adequate net UKC and giving the notice of channel use, it is recommended to utilize the tools provided by the Finnish Transport and Infrastructure Agency. The notice of channel use can be given in the form of a squat calculation made with the Squat Calculator with regard to items D–I. The calculation can be shared as a link, or as a pdf-printout sent by e-mail to the VTS Centre. When using the Squat Calculator, it is enough to write the information of points 1.–3. in the e-mail.

Special situations
The notification obligation will be considered fulfilled in a situation where:

1) a deck officer on board the ship has a valid Pilot Exemption Certificate (PEC) issued in compliance with section 39 of the Pilotage Act (561/2023) that grants an exemption from compulsory pilotage for both the channel and the ship in question; and
2) underkeel clearance calculations that cover the prevailing conditions have been prepared for the ship and the channel in question; and
3) the ship in question operates in the relevant channel in a scheduled service referred to in section 2, subsection 1, paragraph 28 of the Vessel Traffic Service Act.

Sending the notice
In Archipelago VTS, Bothnia VTS, Saimaa VTS and West Coast VTS monitoring areas the notice of channel use should be sent to the email address supervisors.west@fintraffic.fi. Title the email “Notice of channel use”.

Harbour areas

Turku
Vessels are required to report to the Port of Turku two hours prior to arrival at the port. Ship services are ordered from the Port of Turku.
Vessels operating according to a regular timetable in liner service have the right of way.
In the harbour area permission to change berths or turn at the quay must be requested from the Port of Turku. Permission to use anchor must be requested from the VTS.

Aura River:
Vessels with LoA of less than 45 metres shall make a departure report to Archipelago VTS on VHF channel 71. Vessels with LoA of 45 metres or more are subject to the departure clearance procedure.

The port regulations of the city of Turku and the port instructions must be followed in the area.
Contact information to the port 24 h:

- phone +358 2 2674 122
- e-mail satamavalvonta@portofturku.fi
- VHF channel 12 (not monitored continuously, only during mooring and unmooring)

Naantali
Vessels are required to maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 11 in the harbour area.
When passing Neste Ltd.’s oil harbour, vessels must keep a safe distance to the harbour (marked on the map). A temporary crossing of the border is allowed for safety reasons with the approval of Archipelago VTS or by their recommendation. Vessels shall always report the crossing to the VTS.
Vessels operating according to a regular timetable in liner service have the right of way.
The port regulations of the city of Naantali and the port instructions must be followed in the area.
Ship services are ordered from the Port of Naantali.
Port surveillance, contact information:

- phone +358 44 733 4550
- e-mail satama@portofnaantali.fi
- VHF channel 11

Pilot boarding positions

- Fläckgrund
  59°52.90′N 022°48.45′E
- Isokari S
  60°42.10′N 020°59.90′E
- Isokari N
  60°44.53′N 020°54.51′E
- Lillmälö
  60°13.84′N 022°06.61′E
- Marhällan
  60°0.96′N 019°50.05′E

- Nyhamn
  59°56.30′N 019°56.30′E
- Utö A
  59°42.73′N 021°20.32′E
- Utö B
  59°45.50′N 021°21.00′E
- Utö C
  59°47.00′N 021°20.75′E

Accidents and incidents

Accidents and incidents

In coastal areas vessels involved in an accident or in imminent danger shall first contact the MRCC or MRSC (tel. +358 294 1000).

Vessels must immediately report all accidents and incidents relating to maritime safety to the VTS centre. Some examples of such accidents and incidents are listed in section 23 in the Finnish Vessel Traffic Service Act.

Exceptional situations

In exceptional situations, such as extraordinary weather conditions, search and rescue situations or any other incidents in which vessel traffic is restricted or put at risk, the VTS can temporarily close a fairway or fairway section, issue speed limits or instruct vessels to anchor.

Unable to participate?

If the master of the vessel, for a valid reason relating to the vessel’s safety, is unable to participate in the vessel traffic services, or to follow the instructions given by the VTS in exceptional situations, he must immediately inform the VTS about this.

The vessel’s participation in the vessel traffic services does not affect the master’s responsibility for manoeuvring the vessel.