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AVOIDANCE BY PASSING SHIPS OF THE PRECAUTIONARY AREA IN THE
TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME IN THE APPROACHES TO
HOOK OF HOLLAND

1 The Committee at its forty-fourth session (MSC XLIV/21, paragraph 13.18) noted with concern information that ships proceeding between Texel and North Hinder and vice versa approach Hook of Holland instead of following the direct route, and were consequently not complying with paragraph 8.5 bis of the General Provisions on Ships' Routeing which states:

"Precautionary areas should be avoided, if practicable, by passing ships which are not making use of the associated traffic separation schemes or deep water routes or entering or leaving adjacent ports."

2 The Committee urged all Member Governments to draw the attention of their seafarers to the above provision and to stress that:

- .1 ships navigating from North Hinder to Texel and vice versa, should not do so by proceeding via the traffic separation scheme in the Approaches to Hook of Holland (see figure 1);
- .2 the precautionary area in the Approaches to Hook of Holland, which is part of the routeing system in that area, should be avoided by passing coastal traffic;
- .3 passing ships which, for particular reasons, cannot avoid the precautionary area should inform the traffic control "Pilot Maas" well in advance. Due attention should be given to the radar surveillance carried out by traffic control "Pilot Maas" which can be contacted on VHF Channel 20 (see figure 2).

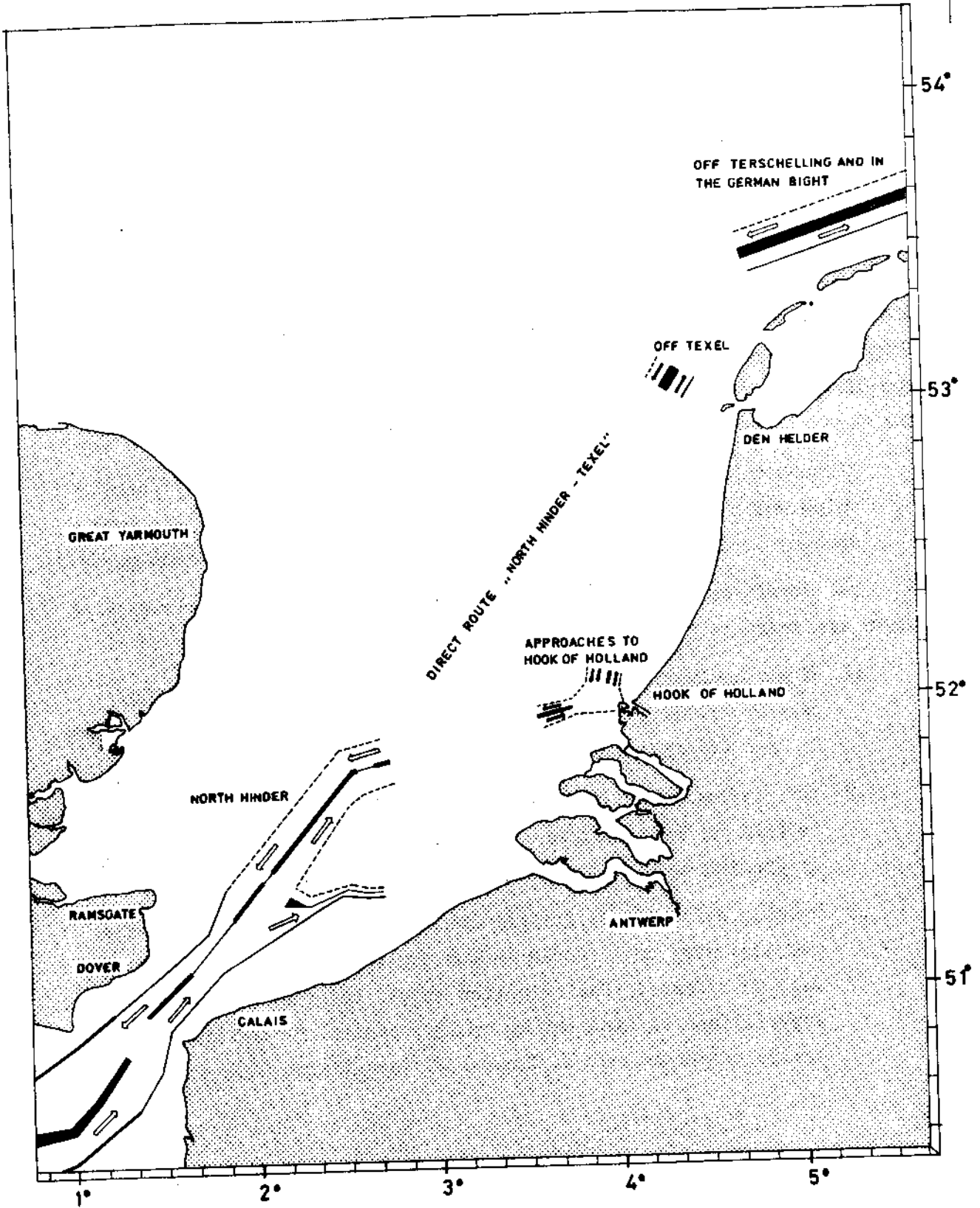


Fig. 1

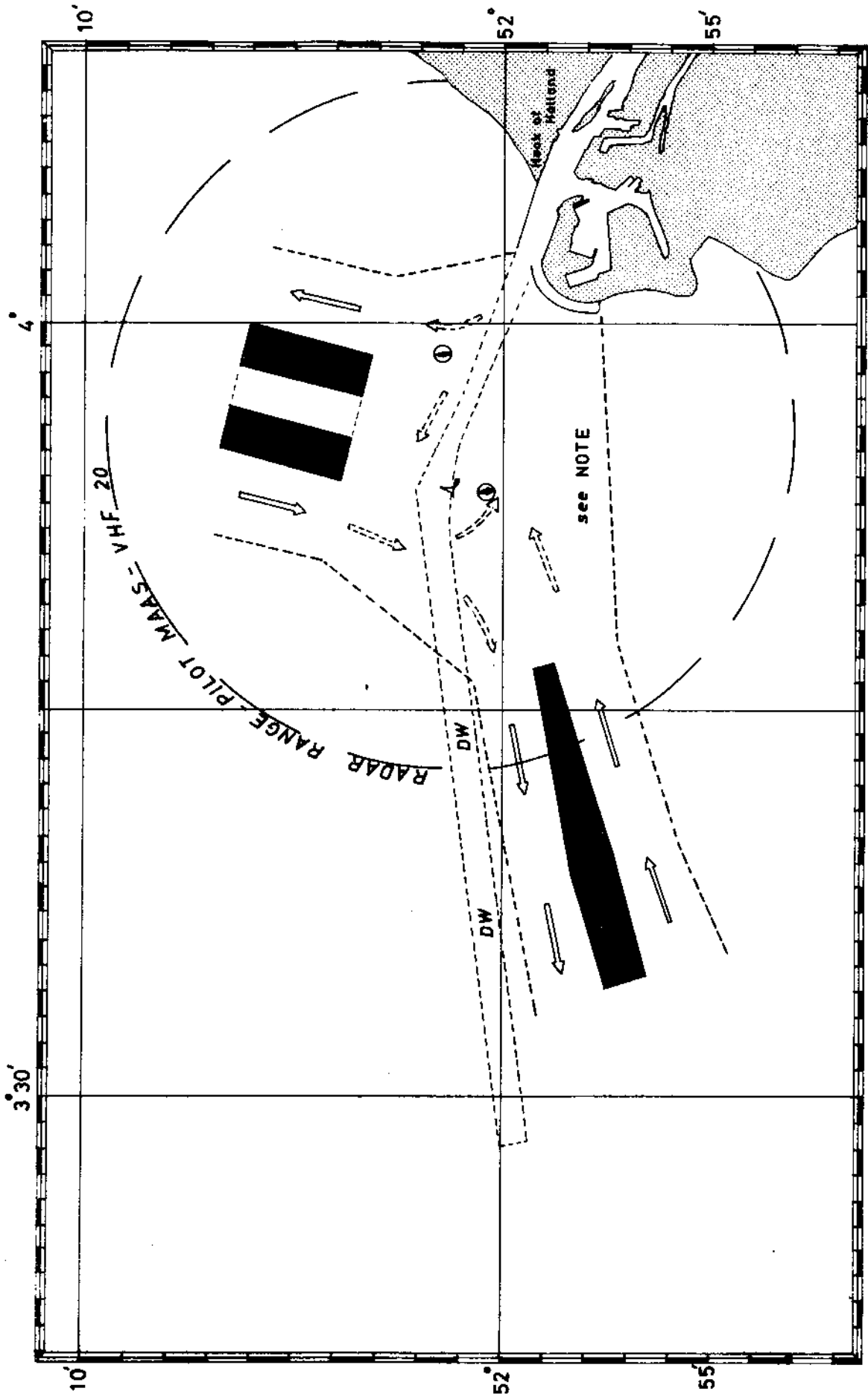


Fig 2 : Approaches to Hook of Holland

NOTE : Passing ships should avoid the precautionary area.