

Victorian Notice to Mariners

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information.

Australia – Victoria

No. 381 (T) of 2023

East Bass Strait – Waratah Bay

UNCREWED SURFACE VESSEL (USV) OPERATIONS

Date: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Details: Operations of a remotely piloted Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USVs) are planned out of Walkerville Beach during September and October 2023. The vessel will be engaged in survey activities as part of a geophysical survey in Waratah Bay. (Figure 1 Below)

Operations will take place subject to weather and other operational factors from 23 September 2023.

Mariners are asked to avoid contact with the vessel and be aware of the operational area during this period.

A support vessel will escort the USV from the launch area in Walkerville and will be stationed in both Norman beach/Tidal River and Port Welshpool.

Although the USV is uncrewed, it is crewed throughout the 24 hour operation, piloted remotely using 360 degree cameras and other navigational aids.

Figure 1 indicates the operational area. The survey area boundary is indicated in Table 1 below also.



Table 1: Survey Area Boundary (WGS84)

| Point | Latitude (° South) | Longitude (° East) |
|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 38° 48.79696 | 146° 03.78674 |
| 2 | 38° 49.34985 | 146° 06.02521 |
| 3 | 38° 53.41985 | 146° 06.41549 |
| 4 | 38° 52.85167 | 146° 02.98395 |

Table 2: Vessel Details

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Name: | X 14 UNMANNED |
| MMSI: | 232035680 |
| Length: | 4.5m |
| Beam: | 2.2m |
| Speed: | 3.5kts |
| Draught: | 1.00m |
| Tonnage: | 1,000kg |



Figure 1: XO-450 USV

The USV sends real time images and situational awareness data over satellite to a team of operators keeping watch and controlling the vessel remotely 24/7.

Safety Precautions: The USV is equipped with the following to make it conspicuous to other marine traffic:

- AIS
- VHF
- Navigation Lights & Sound Signal
- Active Radar Reflector
- Superstructure Painted Yellow

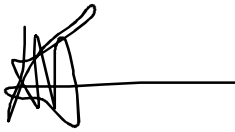
AUS Charts and Publications Affected: AUS 801, AUS 802, AU439146

Victorian Charts and publications affected: Nil

Emergency Contact Details:

| Name (Role) | Telephone Number | Email Address |
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Further Notice: A further Notice will be issued.



KATE MAHERAS
Director Maritime Safety

25/9/2023