



Toulon, on March 20, 2020

DIVISION « ACTION DE L'ETAT EN MER »

## PREFECTORAL DECREE No. N° 037/2020

### REGULATING SHIPPING AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNAL AND TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN SEA TO ADDRESS THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) EPIDEMIC.

Vice-amiral d'escadre Laurent Isnard  
Maritime Prefect of the Mediterranean

*(here comes a series of "HAVING REGARD TO" references and "CONSIDERATIONS" that  
can be looked at, if needed, in the original document in French)*

## DECREES

### ARTICLE 1

This decree shall apply in the French internal and territorial waters of the Mediterranean Sea as well as in the water bodies of lagoons and salt ponds on the public maritime domain until the end of the measures enacted by the Government to regulate movements.

### ARTICLE 2

In order to prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus and subject to the powers of mayors under Article L.2213-23 of the General Code for Local Authorities, water-based leisure activities are prohibited.

With regard to maritime navigation, and subject to the provisions laid down in Article 5 of this decree, only the vessels listed below are authorized:

- commercial vessels providing logistical links;
- professional fishing vessels used in the course of their fishing activity;
- passenger vessels operating on a regular basis for territorial continuity ;
- cruise ships and non-scheduled passenger ships whose port call is accepted by the authority vested with port police powers ;
- ships used for works on infrastructure at sea or in ports;
- ships participating in marine scientific research campaigns or campaigns of strategic interest ;
- ships under repair in a shipyard as part of a convoy or sea trials (subject to the express agreement of the Signal station (sémaphore) closest to the shipyard);
- ships providing a pilotage service;
- ships providing a bunkering service for the benefit of other ships.

These ships are also authorized to anchor in compliance with the regulations in force.



### **ARTICLE 3**

For reasons of public order, the organization of any nautical event at sea is also prohibited.

### **ARTICLE 4**

Subject to the provisions laid down in Article 5 of this decree, any ship flying a foreign flag shall be authorized to exercise its right of innocent passage in order to cross, continuously and rapidly, the French territorial sea or to reach the high seas.

With the exception of those belonging to the categories of ships listed in Article 2, foreign ships shall not be authorized to anchor or stop along the French coasts, save for the exceptions provided for in Article 2 of decree No 85-185 of 6 February 1985 and in cases of force majeure.

### **ARTICLE 5**

French and foreign-flagged vessels subject to the prohibitions of this decree are authorized to return to their home port on the French Mediterranean coast provided that they have made a declaration to the following e-mail address: [contact@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr](mailto:contact@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr).

### **ARTICLE 6**

The provisions of this decree shall not apply to :

- State vessels;
- vessels on a mission of assistance, rescue or protection of the marine environment ;
- ships and crafts of a territorial authority responsible for the surveillance and safety of the water body.

### **ARTICLE 7**

Violations of this decree shall expose their perpetrators to the proceedings and penalties provided for in Articles 131-13 and R. 610-5 of the Criminal Code, Articles L. 5242-2 and L. 5243-6 of the Transport Code and Articles 6 and 7 of decree No. 2007-1167 of 2 August 2007 referred to above.

### **ARTICLE 8**

The departmental directors of the territories and the sea of the Mediterranean seafloor, the officers and agents empowered in matters of navigational police are responsible, each as far as they are concerned, for the execution of this decree which will be published in the administrative acts of the Mediterranean maritime prefecture.

Signed: Laurent Isnard

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[premar.aem.rm@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr](mailto:premar.aem.rm@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr)

National portal of maritime boundaries accessible at the following link: <https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr>

#### **ADDRESSEES & COPIES**

(see original text in French)