

WR.RPC.5032.39.2023.WL

NOTICE TO SKIPPERS No. 39/2023

Re.: Winter season on the Oder Waterway - possible occurrence of ice phenomena.

Pursuant to Art. 14 sec. 1 point 4 of the Act of 20 July 2017 – Water Law (Dz. U. /Journal Of Laws/ of 2021, item 2233) and Art. 43 sec. 6 of the Act of 21 December 2000 on Inland Navigation (Dz. U. /Journal Of Laws/ of 2020, item 1863).

The Regional Water Management Board of the "Polish Waters" National Water Holding in Wrocław hereby informs that weather forecasts have indicated possible 24-hour below-zero temperatures on the Oder river basin.

These weather conditions can cause ice phenomena to develop along the entire Oder Waterway. Permanent ice cover may appear on the canals, lock outports and locks, while frazil ice, floe and shore ice may occur on the Oder River. This may result in the need to close individual sections of the Oder Waterway.

Ice cover can occur especially in closed bodies of water such as ports, wintering grounds and marinas. Even when daytime temperatures rise above 0 degrees Celsius, the ice cover on these water bodies may not disappear. Therefore, all users of the Oder Waterway must be aware that in the event of ice phenomena occurring on the navigation waterway and the necessity to close individual sections of the Oder Waterway, an ice cover in some ports or wintering grounds may make it impossible to use them as safe winter shelter areas.

The frost will also cause a decrease in water flows in rivers, resulting in a further reduction in transit depths on the navigation waterways and a reduction in inflows to retention reservoirs, making it impossible to rebuild the resources stored in them, which at the moment are at a level that makes it practically impossible to effectively supply the Oder.

The forecast emergence of ice phenomena in the ODW will also necessitate the reduction or even complete removal of floating navigation marks from the navigation waterways.

All users of the Oder Waterway (and especially crews of vessels in the course of carrying out transport tasks, hydraulic engineering works or other similar activities) are advised to urgently monitor the hydro-meteorological situation on the Oder River and the announcements issued, adapt their navigation plans to the technical parameters of the units, including navigation conditions and ice situations on the waterway and in ports, as well as to properly secure and supervise all floating facilities in winter shelters.

"Polish Waters" State Water Holding (Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne "Wody Polskie")

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Current information on the hydrological and navigational situation on the Oder River (navigation information) is available on the website of "Polish Waters" National Water Holding, Regional Water Management Board in Wrocław, in the folder - [Hydrological and navigational situation](#).

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