



# The power of five teams for reliable weather routing advice

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**For optimized weather routing and  
weather guidance in shipping, you need  
a team of people.**



It's nearly impossible for one person alone to do everything that is required to ensure the safety and efficiency of every vessel and voyage. Read on to learn how teams of expert consultants can add value across your operations.





# The value of specialized teams

There are five teams that work together to produce reliable weather routing advice.

## Team 1: Data provisioning

This team includes skilled data analysts who document all incoming weather data. They ingest and process it in a way that the other teams can easily understand. Its members speak the required technical languages and know how to decode weather data — regardless of its source.



## Team 2: Weather forecasters

While the data provisioning team focuses on already-gathered information, the weather forecast team looks for new information about future events. They monitor conditions 24/7, so they can keep clients on top of upcoming weather events. They're also responsible for adjusting the forecasting systems when observations differ from actual weather conditions. Also, the team reports on extreme weather, such as heavy storms.



### Team 3: Professional services

Although the meteorological services team provides clients with specific weather information, customer-centricity is taken a step further by the professional services team. Here, customer-specific data from the meteorological services team helps it create solutions that add immediate value to a customer's current solution.



### Team 4: Weather systems

Data must be examined for accuracy, completeness, and irregularities. This is why the weather services team concentrates on testing and verification of forecast reports. It defines and tests algorithms to improve the quality of observations and forecasts. The team also maintains and conducts research on the existing forecasting systems and integrates new developments and improvements. You might say it is the research and development department of the five teams.

### Team 5: Routing services

In weather routing, accurate weather data is only part of the equation. You must also know what to do with it. This is where our routing services team adds value. Each is an experienced merchant shipping officer and many are master mariners who have navigational knowledge and are familiar with vessel characteristics in various wind and sea conditions. Their knowledge and skills enable them to provide premium routing advice.

They are also aware of navigational features, including obstacles, sea currents, and waters affected by pirates. Plus, they understand the processes on the bridge. For example, they know when it is feasible and practical to issue new routes or adjust speed or fuel. Also, they provide reports and advice in a handy PDF format that can be used to avoid unnecessary claims. Through the FleetGuard solution from DTN, report traceability and post-voyage analysis are also possible.



# Why master mariner are so valuable

There are many variables in shipping that make it hard to compare two journeys. However, the choice of route can make a massive difference to a voyage's profitability. For example, when vessels pass Skagerrak on their way to the U.S. East Coast, they typically ask for advice on the next part of the route. They can either pass just above the British Isles or sail through the English Channel. In theory, a ship can knock 35 hours off its journey if it doesn't go through the English Channel, but if the weather is worse on the alternative route, it can eliminate the time savings. Which route is best varies depending on the conditions at the time, which is why accurate, expert route guidance is crucial.

The master mariners and ex-seafarers who are part of the routing services team, are a real strength. They speak the shipping language and understand the realities of life at sea. Master mariners also understand what a ship can handle and the performance levels a vessel should achieve in given circumstances.

**"Ten years ago, a route analyst was not yet such a familiar concept. Nowadays, it is not only important to avoid rough conditions, but above all, to get the performance of the ships as high as possible. A lot of customers want to know how their ship performs, fuel and speed-based."**

Eefje Verhoeven  
Senior route analyst

## RouteGuard consultancy

Get this unmatched, multi-team expertise through our RouteGuard service.

Shipping customers who use RouteGuard consultancy are in direct contact with our routing services team. The team will learn your exact requirements for each voyage and help you optimize your routes, whether your goal is to make the fastest crossing, to meet a specific ETA, or achieve the most economical route possible. Our master mariners will learn everything they need to know about your fleet so they can tailor their advice to each ship's specific capabilities.

For an example of the difference they can make during a major weather event, please read our case study, **Master mariners: The secret to weather routing success.**

Learn more at [www.dtn.com/ship](http://www.dtn.com/ship)

