

CHANNEL DATA

Alignment and buoyage: The Oulu–Kemi channel (10.0 m) starts E of Hanhikari at the Oulu 10 m channel and continues from there as a 10 m channel E of Ulkokrunni to the channel Kemi approach (10.0 m) N of Kemi 2. Channel has 12 lines, marked with sector lights and boards, length is 82.3 km / 44.4 nautical miles. Lateral marking from Hanhikari to Kraasukka and cardinal marking from Kraasukka to Kemi 2. Lit.

Dimensions: Design ship: L = 210 m, B = 30 m, T = 10.0 m. Maximum authorised draught 10.0 m. Safe clearance depths (MW 2000) at the beginning of the fairway – 11.5 m, and – 12.0 m at the end. Minimum width 312 m. The turning radius in the bends at Hanhikari and Hookana is 600 m; otherwise the minimum turning radius is 400 m. Design speed 12 knots.

Areas with meeting and overtaking prohibitions: The channel has one permanent area of meeting and overtaking prohibitions, look closer to Bothnia VTS Masters´ Guide
<https://tmfg.fi/en/vts/masters-guide>

Anchorage areas etc.: The channel is without separate anchorage areas.

NAVIGABILITY

Navigational conditions: The channel follows the natural trenches; it is fairly unsheltered but well marked. SW-NW winds can create heavy seas. There are two sharp bends on the first leg of the fairway in which vessels should pay attention and navigate with caution. In the Hanhikari bend the alteration of course is approx. 127 degrees and in the Hookana bend the alteration of course is approx. 130 degrees. The narrowest part of the channel is on the Virpiniemi line, width 312 metres.

Ice conditions: In early winter there is ice movement in the whole fairway area. May cause spar buoys to be pressed under ice (surface). On the Hanhikari – Ulkokrunni leg there is approx 50-80 cm thick fast ice from January to April. On the leg between Ulkokrunni and Kemi 2 there is moving ice and ice ridges. The buoys are often pressed below the moving ice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wind gauge: Marine weather observations, Hailuoto Marjaniemi, Oulu Vihreäsaari, Kemi 1 lighthouse.
Sea level: Oulu mareograph, outside of Oulu Toppila harbour.

TRAFFIC SERVICE

Pilotage: E-mail: pilotorder.west@finnpilot.fi. Order form www.pilotorder.fi.

Telephone: +358 (0) 400 907 979, fax: +358 (0) 29 52 53012. Pilot boarding positions; Oulun portti, Oulu N: 65°11,52' N, 24°20'57' E, Oulu S: 65° 07,14' N, 24°16,57' E, Kemi N: 65°33,10' N; 24°26,90' E.

VTS: Bothnia VTS, VHF channel 67. Tel.: +358 204 48 7356.

