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CSOC Simulated Tracks

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This Op Detail explains how CSOC can be used for simulated tracks

A simulated track is a pretend track which can be placed anywhere within the system and given a course and speed to enable it to move exactly as a real track would. The tracks can be seen on all CSOCs logged into the same domain until they have been deleted.

Simulated tracks can be useful to simulate a vessel's movement in various scenarios e.g. when they do not have AIS, to symbolise a SAR incident area, to mark the centre of a TEZ or to check that alerts are working within the area. If the track meets the set criteria for an alerting area, it will set off an alert exactly the same as a normal track.

When using in the VTS domain, a report in CSMI can also be created on a simulated track as long as the track has a name and callsign.

- To create a simulated track the operator can either right click on the chart and select 'simulate track' or select tracks in the menu ribbon and click on the blue SIM symbol and place their cursor on the required location on the chart
- Depending on how many operators are using the system, it can sometimes take 30 seconds to a minute to load the simulated track
- Once the track has loaded, it will be displayed on the chart as a black track with a white border and a white circle around it
- To give the track a name, callsign and MMSI number, double click on the simulated track to bring up the track details

- Within track details click into the name field and enter the desired name, then immediately hit return on the keyboard before moving your cursor. The name will now be displayed next to the track and at the top of the track details box, repeat again for callsign and MMSI
- To give the track a course and speed, the operator must click on the 'edit' button at the bottom of the track details box
- When the system is ready for editing, the course and speed boxes will turn white allowing the operator to enter the desired course and speed. The operator must select apply at the bottom of the box and the track will start moving as required
- A simulated track will have the same characteristics as a normal track so these can be used with conflict warning lists, CPA/ TCPA's, assignments, reports etc. as required
- A simulated track can be easily moved to a new position by holding down shift on the keyboard and dragging and dropping to the desired position
- To remove the simulated track, right click on the track and select 'drop track' and the track will disappear from the system

Using a Simulated Track to Test Alerts

A simulated track is a very simple and effective way to test an alert. Depending on the alert criteria the operator may have to give the simulated track some additional attributes in order for the alert to work as intended.

To do this the operator will need to access the track details of the simulated track, select 'assignments' from within the lower tabs and click on 'type and size'. Once within type and size the operator can then select a vessel type (some alerts have fishing vessels exempt) and can also enter a length and width (some alerts have vessels under 20m exempt). The operator can then click ok and should see the type and size assign to the vessel properties within the track details box.

If 'OK' is not available or greyed out, this may be because the responsibility area has not been selected, go back to log in and select the correct responsibility area before going through the above steps again.

Some alerts will also require a MMSI and Callsign as well as name, if the alert is not working during tests with a simulated track, make sure the simulated track has an MMSI and Callsign before trying again.

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