

Navigation safety procedures and navigation equipment will help to ensure that your vessel is navigating safely. This will help avoid collisions and groundings, and make sure that navigational errors are minimized. It is important to educate and promote topics like Transport Canada Regulations, collision prevention, and crew preparation and training.

# Collision Prevention / Regulations

Date Discussed:

Signature:

The Navigation Safety Rules are similar to the rules of the road on the highway. They establish a consistent way to navigate safely and avoid collisions when two vessels are crossing paths or are on course to meet head-on. Maintain a proper lookout and be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there to ensure your safety and the safety of the boats around you. The *Collision Regulations* are a series of rules and regulations governing safe passage, right of way, crossing and overtaking, sound signals and fog signals. *Collision Regulations* describe the proper conduct for a vessel under all conditions of visibility.

## Make your intentions clear:

Actions must be clear and deliberate so other skippers can see your intentions. Never assume the operator of another boat will follow the rules. Always be prepared to take action to avoid a collision

## Keep a proper lookout:

A proper lookout includes eyes, ears, binoculars, and the radio. Under the *Collision Regulations* it is the responsibility of every skipper to maintain a vigilant look-out by sight and hearing. Be aware of your surroundings and take extra precautions when in bad weather, restricted visibility, and darkness to assist with the early detection.

## Restricted visibility:

Use sound signals in restricted visibility to alert others of their position. Use common sense, slow your vessel down, and be ready to take immediate action. Be overly cautious when operating in restricted visibility.

## Sound signals:

Your crew must be trained on what actions they should take when they hear a specific sound signal. These sound signals must be accompanied by light signals.

## Risk of Collision, Rule 7 of the *Collision Regulations* states:

- (a) Every vessel shall use all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is any doubt such risk shall be deemed to exist.
- (b) Proper use shall be made of radar equipment if fitted and operational, including long-range scanning to obtain early warning of risk of collision and radar plotting or equivalent observation of detected objects.
- (c) Assumptions shall not be made on the basis of scanty information, especially scanty radar information.
- (d) In determining if risk of collision exists the following considerations shall be among those considered:



- (I) such risk shall be deemed to exist if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change.
- (II) such risk may sometimes exist even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly when approaching a very large vessel or a tow or when approaching a vessel at close range.

If you want to access more information on *Collision Avoidance/Regulations*, take a look at your “*Wheelhouse Safety Logbook Version 2.0*” and go over it with your crew members.