



## Navigation – COLREGS

### Rule 5 - Look-out

Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision



“**Look out**” means **pay attention to everything!** - Not just looking ahead out of the window but all round the vessel, using all your senses and all appropriate equipment available to you.

**Keep an eye and ear on everything that gives you information for example:**

- **Radar/ARPA** - Be aware of the effects of clutter, of small targets and the range of the set.
- **Radio transmissions** - Keep an ear on what is going on in the vessel's vicinity.
- **Sound Signals** – Be aware of any sound signals near-by and the effect of keeping a closed wheelhouse, and of distracting noises in a closed space.
- **Course and Position Navigation Aids** - If you have to alter course make sure there is safe water available.
- **Depth indicator** - Frequently and systematically monitor the depth of water beneath the vessel
- **AIS** – Helps in identifying target name and exchanging relevant information between ships

**Beware of distractions!**

- **Alarms** - Do not allow alarms, such as false GMDSS transmissions, to distract you from keeping a proper look-out.
- **Lights** - Do not allow lights on your vessel to impair your vision
- **Communications** - VHF transmissions and mobile phones are not your first priority. Do not allow them to distract you.



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### Rule 2 - RESPONSIBILITY



- The COLREGS are the foundations upon which the safe navigation and conduct of vessels are built
- This fundamental feature of the COLREGS highlights the fact that you, the mariners, are responsible for your own actions and you have to comply with the Rules while ensuring that you take all precautions of the ordinary practice of seafarers - there is no substitute for the application of common sense on the seas
- While it is vital to know the contents of the Regulations, simply being able to recite them verbatim is no substitute for knowing how to apply them. A coherent full working knowledge of the text and its application is vital.

We stress the importance of COLREG Rule 2 as this vital Rule is so often overlooked.

#### Rule 2 - Responsibility

*(a) Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any vessel, or the owner, master or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seaman, or by the special circumstances of the case.*

*(b) In construing and complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.*

#### REMEMBER!

- The COLREGS are not just advice to the mariner - they are THE LAW.
- If you disobey the law you will suffer the consequences including imprisonment
- Ignorance of the law is never a defence