Basic Collision Regulations at Sea

- The rules apply anywhere on the sea or connected to it (subject to local by laws).
- Underway means not anchored, or made fast to the shore, or aground.
- Making way means being propelled through the water by sail, machinery, or oar.
- Keep a good lookout at all times by all means available (sight, sound, radar).
- Maintain a safe speed for the conditions (waves, hazards, tide, traffic, visibility, depth, background lights).
- The words 'Right of Way' do not occur in the rules. A 'stand on' vessel should maintain its course and speed until it is clear that the 'give way' vessel is not taking avoiding action. Then all vessels must keep clear.
- Action taken to avoid collision shall be positive, early and safe.
- A risk of collision exists if a bearing by compass, radar or transit stays constant.
- Navigate on the starboard side of a channel.
- When crossing a shipping lane or traffic separation scheme keep your heading at right angles to the traffic.
- **Special rules apply in fog** - There is no ‘Give Way’ vessel. if you hear any vessel ahead, sound your signal, slow down but keep steerage way on, stop if necessary, navigate with extreme caution till danger is past.

**General Rules for Priority:**
1. Not Under Command
2. Restricted Ability to Manoeuvre
3. Constrained by Draught
4. Fishing
5. Sail
6. Motor (including motor sailing) Tugs are treated as motor vessels, unless they are also RAM or CBD

**Exceptions** to the General Rules: Narrow channels, Traffic Separation Schemes.

- **Overtaking** boats keep clear - sail and power.

- **Sailing Rules**
  1. Starboard tack boat
  2. Port tack boat

- **Sailing** boats on the same tack: Windward boat keeps clear.

- **Motoring Rules**
  - Boats meeting head on – both turn to starboard.
  - If two power vessels are crossing, the boat which has the other on her own starboard side shall keep out of the way.
Light Recognition by night

Motor vessel > 50 m
Arrangement of lights

Sailing vessel
From ahead

Motor vessel > 50m
From ahead

Sailing vessel
Port side

Sailing vessel
From ahead

Sailing vessel
From ahead

Side 112.5 deg

Masthead 225 deg

Stern 135 deg
Light Recognition by night

- Sailing vessel with engine on (motor sailing). Starboard aspect.
  - Motor vessel < 50 metres
    - nb 'steaming light'

- Motor vessel > 50 Metres, port side

- Stern light of any vessel. Anchor light of boat <50 m. Small rowing boat

- Vessel > 50 metres at anchor

- Vessel constrained by draught. Starboard aspect

- Vessel with restricted ability to manoeuvre. Port aspect

- Vessel aground

- Vessel not under command, under way, not making any way

- Vessel trawling

- Making way

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Shape recognition by day

- **Vessel at anchor**
- **Restricted in ability to manoeuvre**
- **Vessel not under command**
- **Vessel aground**
- **Diver down**
- **Constrained by draught**
- **Vessel fishing**
- **Vessel towing and tow. > 200 metres**
- **Minesweeper**

Sailing vessel with auxiliary engine on (motor sailing).
Risk of collision exists if a bearing by compass, radar or transit stays constant.
Rules of the Road
Sailing Vessels

Port tack boat B gives way

Overtaking boat B keeps clear

Windward boat B gives way

Avoiding action must be
• Early
• Substantial
• Safe
Rules of the Road
Motor Vessels

Head on:
- Turn to Starboard
- Keep to Starboard side of channel

Converging:
- Boat on right stands on
- B goes behind, slows down or stops

Avoiding action must be
- **Early**
- **Substantial**
- **Safe**
Sound Signals Yachtmaster

- Turning to Starboard
- Turning to Port
- My engines are in astern propulsion
- Please make your intentions clear (= get out of the way)
- Motor - Approaching a bend (here I come sounding one)

**In fog**

- Motor vessel in fog @ 2 minutes
- In fog - motor vessel stopped
- In fog - not under command, restricted in ability to manoeuvre, constrained by draught, towing, fishing, sailing

**Bell 5 secs**

- At anchor < 100 m. Bell + Gong > 100 m
- At anchor, restricted visibility, warning of collision
- Last vessel in tow

**Overtaking**

- I intend to overtake on your starboard side
- I intend to overtake on your port side
- I Agree
Rules for Priority  1 = highest

General Rules
1. Not under Command
2. Restricted in ability to manoeuvre
3. Constrained by draught
4. Fishing
5. Sail
6. Motor (including motor sailing)

Exceptions:
1. Narrow channels, Traffic Separation Schemes,
2. Overtaking

Overtaking - Sail and Power
1. Boat ahead
2. Boat overtaking

Sail
1. Starboard tack
2. Port tack
3. Windward boat

Converging Power
1. Boat on right
2. Boat on left