



## Prevention of Collision At Sea - Look Out Below - And Above - and About!

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When I take young sailors out on the high seas, I usually challenge the group with the following:

"If anybody can tell me where it is 50-degrees below zero within 10 miles of our location, I will give them this \$20 bill."

It isn't quite Captain Ahab nailing the gold coin to the mast for the mate that first sights the White Whale - but it does get them thinking. About half the time, some young but worldly traveler points straight up and says, "Up there, 10 miles!" and wins. The point of the exercise is to get them to conceptualize that they are required to think about what is going on all around them - 360-degrees by 360-degrees. Rule 5 is all about that.

What Rule 5 says, and thus binds all skippers, is this:

"Every Vessel shall at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full ap-

praisal of the situation and of the risk of collision."

What does that all mean? Well, you may recall that, back on May 9th when we started the series on The Regulations to Avoid Collision At Sea (The COLREGs), I noted that everyone in front of an Admiralty Board or Court of Inquiry is guilty just based on the fact that there has been a collision (Rule 2 requires you to break all the Rules if needed to avoid a collision - so you failed in at least one regard!) The Board is there to apportion blame - even if the other skipper drove straight into you. It is never 100-0. Why?

"...shall AT ALL TIMES maintain a proper lookout... ..by ALL AVAILABLE MEANS..."

Have radar and didn't turn it on? "Well, Sir, it was a perfectly clear day. Visibility for both of us was fully to the horizon." "Skipper, if you had had your radar on, you would have been able to determine the exact distance to the approaching vessel, a factor that you were in error on..."

"It was foggy, Sir, but I had both my crew and myself at the helm looking ahead, behind and around." "Skipper, did you have anyone on the bow? He might have heard the oars working the skiff ahead... He certainly would have seen the skiff before you were able to..."

"Sir, I blew my whistle repeatedly. He didn't respond." "Skipper, did you try to hail the vessel ahead by radio..?"

How far does this pattern of thought go? In a 1984 court case (Granholm v. TFL Express), a single-handed yacht, Granholm, was run down from behind (see SSP, May 30, 2007, "Overtaking - A Meeting") by the freighter TFL Express. The owner of the Granholm sued the Express for failing to maintain a proper lookout (Rule 5) and to give-way to the over-taken vessel (Rule 13). The Court agreed - but found the skipper of the Granholm equally at fault. He was sleeping and thus had no look-out. "The obligation to maintain a proper lookout falls upon great vessels and small, alike."

But what of the single-hander who must sleep at some point? In fact, there is a widely sanctioned race of single-handers who race around the world. In the three+ months they are at sea, they must be asleep for a month! The Courts have ruled that the failure of the single-hander to maintain a proper - constant - lookout is irresponsible in the context of Rule 5 AND Rule 2 (see above.) In short, long, single-handed passages are by their very nature irresponsible and contrary to the COLREGs - which govern all of us every time we leave the dock...

"Both in safety and in doubt, always keep a Good Look-Out", spake Captain Eldrige...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [USCGAUX2007@aol.com](mailto:USCGAUX2007@aol.com) or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at [FSO-PS@emcg.us](mailto:FSO-PS@emcg.us) and we will help you "get in this thing..."

## Moriches Inlet - July 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sun 1		2:15 AM/0.01ft	8:15 AM/2.72ft	2:09 PM/0.28ft	8:24 PM/3.48ft
Mon 2		2:56 AM/-0.06ft	8:57 AM/2.77ft	2:53 PM/0.26ft	9:05 PM/3.46ft
Tue 3		3:35 AM/-0.09ft	9:42 AM/2.83ft	3:36 PM/0.26ft	9:50 PM/3.40ft
Wed 4		4:15 AM/-0.10ft	10:31 AM/2.91ft	4:21 PM/0.30ft	10:39 PM/3.30ft
Thu 5		4:56 AM/-0.07ft	11:22 AM/3.01ft	5:12 PM/0.36ft	11:32 PM/3.18ft
Fri 6		5:40 AM/-0.02ft	12:13 PM/3.12ft	6:13 PM/0.43ft	
Sat 7	12:26 AM/3.04ft	6:32 AM/0.05ft	1:06 PM/3.24ft	7:23 PM/0.45ft	
Sun 8	1:23 AM/2.90ft	7:31 AM/0.11ft	2:01 PM/3.33ft	8:35 PM/0.39ft	
Mon 9	2:24 AM/2.78ft	8:34 AM/0.13ft	2:59 PM/3.41ft	9:40 PM/0.27ft	
Tue 10	3:30 AM/2.71ft	9:34 AM/0.12ft	4:02 PM/3.49ft	10:40 PM/0.14ft	
Wed 11	4:37 AM/2.72ft	10:33 AM/0.09ft	5:04 PM/3.58ft	11:37 PM/0.01ft	
Thu 12	5:40 AM/2.80ft	11:30 AM/0.06ft	6:02 PM/3.66ft		
Fri 13		12:32 AM/-0.09ft	6:37 AM/2.90ft	12:25 PM/0.04ft	6:54 PM/3.70ft
Sat 14		1:25 AM/-0.17ft	7:29 AM/2.98ft	1:19 PM/0.04ft	7:43 PM/3.68ft
Sun 15		2:13 AM/-0.20ft	8:19 AM/3.02ft	2:09 PM/0.06ft	8:30 PM/3.60ft
Mon 16		2:58 AM/-0.19ft	9:07 AM/3.01ft	2:56 PM/0.13ft	9:15 PM/3.45ft
Tue 17		3:39 AM/-0.12ft	9:56 AM/2.99ft	3:41 PM/0.23ft	10:01 PM/3.27ft
Wed 18		4:18 AM/-0.01ft	10:44 AM/2.95ft	4:24 PM/0.37ft	10:46 PM/3.08ft
Thu 19		4:56 AM/0.13ft	11:30 AM/2.92ft	5:08 PM/0.52ft	11:31 PM/2.87ft
Fri 20		5:33 AM/0.29ft	12:15 PM/2.89ft	5:56 PM/0.66ft	
Sat 21	12:15 AM/2.68ft	6:13 AM/0.44ft	12:58 PM/2.87ft	6:52 PM/0.76ft	
Sun 22	1:01 AM/2.52ft	6:59 AM/0.56ft	1:42 PM/2.87ft	7:55 PM/0.79ft	
Mon 23	1:49 AM/2.39ft	7:53 AM/0.64ft	2:29 PM/2.88ft	8:56 PM/0.75ft	
Tue 24	2:42 AM/2.30ft	8:50 AM/0.65ft	3:20 PM/2.92ft	9:51 PM/0.64ft	
Wed 25	3:42 AM/2.29ft	9:43 AM/0.61ft	4:15 PM/3.00ft	10:42 PM/0.51ft	
Thu 26	4:43 AM/2.35ft	10:34 AM/0.53ft	5:08 PM/3.14ft	11:31 PM/0.36ft	
Fri 27	5:37 AM/2.47ft	11:24 AM/0.43ft	5:56 PM/3.29ft		
Sat 28		12:19 AM/0.20ft	6:25 AM/2.63ft	12:14 PM/0.32ft	6:40 PM/3.44ft
Sun 29		1:04 AM/0.05ft	7:09 AM/2.79ft	1:02 PM/0.21ft	7:22 PM/3.55ft
Mon 30		1:48 AM/-0.09ft	7:51 AM/2.93ft	1:50 PM/0.11ft	8:04 PM/3.61ft
Tue 31		2:30 AM/-0.21ft	8:34 AM/3.07ft	2:36 PM/0.05ft	8:46 PM/3.59ft

## MONTAUK SURF CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT

Attention all anglers! The 2007 Montauk Classic Surf Fishing Tournament will be conducted from noon on Friday, September 28, 2007, through noon on Sunday, September 30, 2007. Cash and equipment prizes will be awarded to the five largest bluefish and largest striped bass hooked and landed from the beach, surf, jetty, bank or pier beginning at the western most tip of Napeague State Park, encompassing all points east. New York State minimum qualifying weight/size limits will be in effect.

There is a \$15.00 entry fee. The Montauk Classic Surf Fishing Tournament is co-sponsored by The Fisherman Magazine and the Long Island State Park Region. Corporate contributors include Marine Max, Frabill, Hi-Seas, Evolution, Vision Hooks & Tackle, Okuma, Thule, Mercury, Tsunami, Global Fish Mounts, St. Croix, Lamiglas, and Bronco Bags.

For an application and/or additional information please call, (631) 321-3510, weekdays, 9:00AM - 5:00PM.

For more information about New York State Parks, please visit our website at [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com).

