

# PORT DEPARTMENT

## BOATING LAWS & SAFE PRACTICES

*for vessels operating in  
The Bahamas*



Ministry of Energy and Transport  
Port Department  
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**VOLUME 1, 2024**



# INTRODUCTION

By way of the Ports Authorities Act, it is the Port Department's responsibility to regulate the local maritime sector and ensure the safety of maritime operations conducted in the country. This includes safe navigation of all vessels.

To assist with the effective performance of the Department's responsibility, this booklet was designed as a guide for those operating a vessel in the Bahamas, for commercial and recreational purposes.

Within these pages, you will find valuable information on the laws and regulations that address navigational rules, emergency procedures, safety equipment, and registration processes, along with other critical aspects of maintaining safety.

It is important to remember that safety is a shared responsibility!



# Disclaimer

This handbook is provided as a free publication of the Port Department, with in the Ministry of Energy and Transport.

This Handbook is designed as an accompaniment to formal procedures on certification, licencing, training and registration in the Boat Registration Act and its Rules, the Water Skiing and Motor Boat Control Act and its Regulations, and the Commercial Recreational Watercraft Act and its Regulations.

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# MINISTER OF ENERGY & TRANSPORT



Across the expanse of our Bahamian waters, safety is not just a guideline - it's a commitment . As you navigate, let us maintain this commitment to safety, by upholding the standard of our boating laws.

We ensure that our shores remain a haven for generations to come, in the way that we steward our marine environment, and in the way that we hold fast to our duty to ensure vessel seaworthiness and the protection of human life.

As your Minister of Energy and Transport, I take this opportunity to wish you the best as you safely navigate across The Bahamas!

**JoBeth Coleby-Davis,**  
Minister of Energy and Transport

# ACTING PORT CONTROLLER



Safety is critical to the regulation of the local maritime sector, which makes it a necessary goal for The Bahamas Port Department. Without safety, we jeopardize the environment and lives. For this reason, this handbook was designed to raise awareness on the need to emphasize the message of safety in the sector, and to promote compliance with Bahamian Laws which speak to safety from the perspective of boats and watercrafts.

We trust that you will use this handbook as a trusted navigational companion, to be reminded of important information as you navigate.

**Sr. Cmdr. Berne Wright,**  
Acting Port Controller

# *PORT MANAGEMENT TEAM*



**Craig Curtis**  
Senior Deputy Port Controller



**Clarence Reckley**  
Senior Deputy Port Controller



**Frederick Rodgers**  
Assistant Port Controller



**Janet Russell**  
Assistant Port Controller

# *PORT MANAGEMENT TEAM*



Lonna Bethel  
Assistant Port Controller

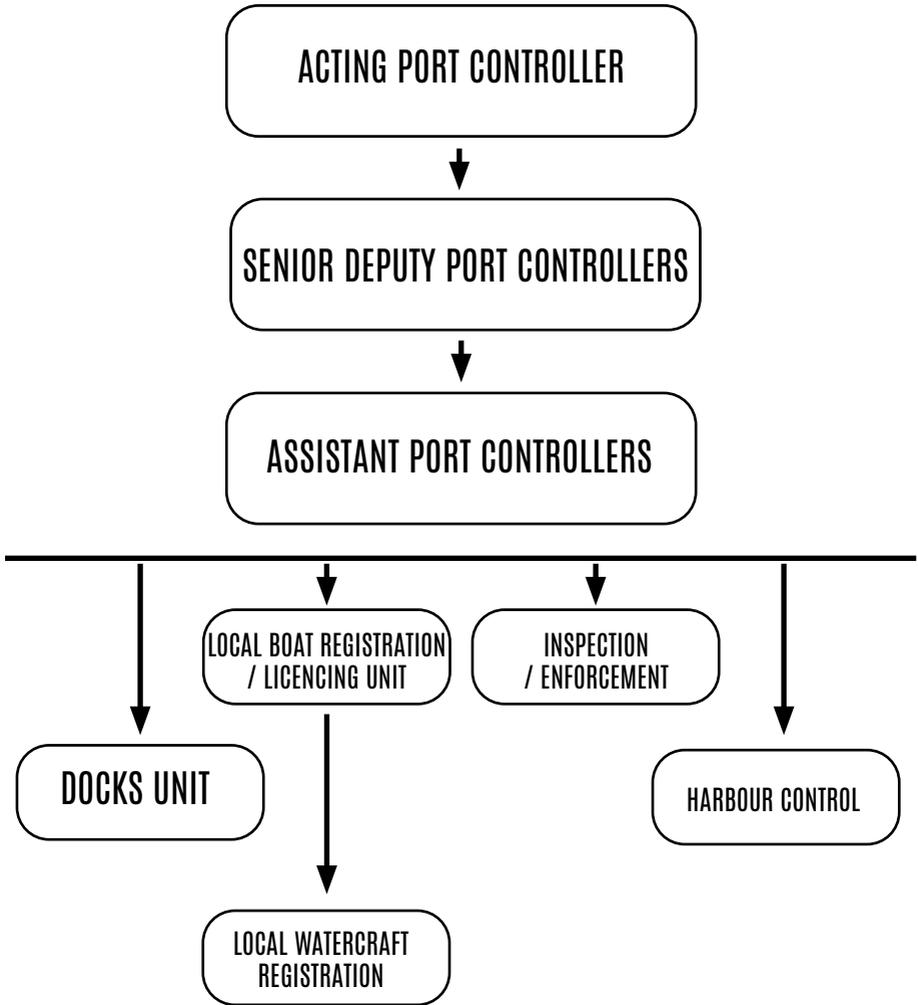


Adarrio Campbell  
Assistant Port Controller



Dale Roye  
Assistant Port Controller

# DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE





**PROCEDURE TO  
REGISTER  
A  
BOAT/WATERCRAFT**

# BOAT & WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION

Prior to operating, all vessels and watercraft must be registered with The Bahamas Port Department. There are several types of registrations for vessels/ watercrafts, including:

## **PRIVATE VESSEL REGISTRATION**

Expires March 31st annually

## **COMMERCIAL VESSEL REGISTRATION**

Expires December 31st annually

## **FOREIGN YACHT CHARTER LICENCE**

Expires December 31st annually

## **COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION**

Expires December 31st annually



# PROCEDURE FOR REGISTERING A BAHAMIAN-OWNED VESSEL IN THE BAHAMAS

## PRIVATE VESSEL

- ◆ Contact the local Port office to schedule a vessel inspection
- ◆ Visit <https://portservices.gov.bs/Port/port.nsf/PrivateVessel.xsp> to complete and submit the application form
- ◆ Collect certificate once approved

## COMMERCIAL VESSEL

- ◆ Contact the local Port office to schedule a vessel inspection
- ◆ Visit <https://portservices.gov.bs/Port/port.nsf/BoatRegistration.xsp> to complete and submit the application form
- ◆ Collect certificate once approved”



**IN THE ABSENCE OF A LOCAL PORT OFFICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE FOR THE ISLAND WHERE THE VESSEL IS LOCATED.**

**FOR APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER VESSELS IN NEW PROVIDENCE, THE INSPECTION UNIT MAY BE CONTACTED AT**

**(242) 376-6032**

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO REGISTER A BAHAMIAN - OWNED VESSEL

## COMMERCIAL BOAT REGISTRATION

- ◆ BUSINESS LICENCE
- ◆ VALID INSURANCE
- ◆ VALID MASTER LICENCE
- ◆ VALID VESSEL REPORTS: SURVEY, MAINTENANCE, DRY DOCKING AND CREW TRAINING
- ◆ PROOF OF VESSEL OWNERSHIP
- ◆ NOTARIZED BILL OF SALE (IF PURCHASED IN THE BAHAMAS)
- ◆ CUSTOMS DOCUMENTATION (IF PURCHASED OUTSIDE OF THE BAHAMAS)
- ◆ CUSTOMS PROOF OF PAYMENT

## PRIVATE BOAT REGISTRATION

- ◆ VALID IDENTIFICATION
- ◆ PROOF OF VESSEL OWNERSHIP
- ◆ CUSTOMS DOCUMENTATION (IF PURCHASED OUTSIDE THE BAHAMAS)
- ◆ CUSTOMS PROOF OF PAYMENT
- ◆ NOTARIZED BILL OF SALE (IF PURCHASED IN THE BAHAMAS)
- ◆ FISHERIES DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL (FDC) LICENCE - IF REGISTERING A COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL

# APPLICABLE FEES TO REGISTER A BAHAMIAN - OWNED VESSEL

## COMMERCIAL BOAT FEES

“ **FIRST SCHEDULE**  
**(section 8(4))**

Boat Registration Fees

A. Initial registration fee for a boat plying for hire in the waters of The Bahamas –

19 feet and under	\$700.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$2,100.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$3,500.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$4,900.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$7,000.00
60 feet to 69 feet	\$8,500.00
70 feet to 79 feet	\$9,800.00
80 feet to 89 feet	\$11,000.00
90 feet to 99 feet	\$12,600.00
100 feet and over	\$17,500.00

# APPLICABLE FEES TO REGISTER A BAHAMIAN-OWNED VESSEL

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

B. Annual renewal of registration fees in respect of boats plying for hire in the waters of The Bahamas—

19 feet and under	\$140.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$490.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$860.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$1,155.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$1,610.00
60 feet to 69 feet	\$2,100.00
70 feet to 79 feet	\$2,350.00
80 feet to 89 feet	\$2,660.00
90 feet to 99 feet	\$3,000.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$3,500.00
200 feet and over	\$5,600.00

# APPLICABLE FEES TO REGISTER A BAHAMIAN-OWNED VESSEL

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

## C. Transfer of Registration Fee

For each transfer of registration ..... \$ 50.00

## D. Duplicate Certificate of Registration Fee

For every copy of a certificate ..... \$ 60.00

## E. Certificate of Deletion Fee

For each deletion of a registration ..... \$ 300.00

## F. Inspection fees for boats

19 feet and under	\$35.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$53.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$65.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$70.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$88.00
60 feet to 69 feet	\$105.00
70 feet to 79 feet	\$113.00
80 feet to 89 feet	\$123.00
90 feet to 99 feet	\$130.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$140.00
200 feet and over	\$158.00”.

# APPLICABLE FEES TO REGISTER A BAHAMIAN-OWNED VESSEL

“ SECOND SCHEDULE  
(Section 8(4))

## Master’s Licence Fees

- (a) Annual Licence fee
  - A Class ..... \$300.00
  - B Class ..... \$150.00
  
- (b) Duplicate Licence fee..... \$100.00
  
- (c) Examination fee ..... \$50.00”.

# PRIVATE BOAT FEES

“ **SCHEDULE**  
**(section 13)**

Part I – Registration Fees for motor boats registered under this Act for recreational use only

A. First time registration of a motor boat –

19 feet and under	\$500.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$1,000.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$1,500.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$3,500.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$5,000.00
60 feet to 79 feet	\$7,000.00
80 feet to 99 feet	\$9,000.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$12,500.00
200 feet and over	\$17,500.00

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a motor boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

B. Annual renewal of registration fees in respect of a motor boat —

19 feet and under	\$100.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$225.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$350.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$825.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$1,150.00
60 feet to 79 feet	\$1,500.00
80 feet to 99 feet	\$1,900.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$2,500.00
200 feet and over	\$4,000.00

# PRIVATE BOAT FEES

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a motor boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

- C. Transfer of Registration Fee  
For each transfer of registration ..... \$ 50.00
  
- D. Duplicate Certificate of Registration Fee  
For every copy of a certificate ..... \$ 60.00
  
- E. Certificate of Deletion Fee  
For each deletion of a registration ..... \$ 100.00
  
- F. Inspection fees for boats
  - 19 feet and under \$25.00
  - 20 feet to 28 feet \$30.00
  - 29 feet to 39 feet \$38.00
  - 40 feet to 49 feet \$50.00
  - 50 feet to 59 feet \$63.00
  - 60 feet to 79 feet \$75.00
  - 80 feet to 99 feet \$88.00
  - 100 feet to 199 feet \$100.00
  - 200 feet and over \$113.00

## Part II – Registration Fees for motor boats registered under this Act and licenced under the Fisheries Act to engage in commercial fishing

- A. First time registration of a motor boat –
  - 19 feet and under \$250.00
  - 20 feet to 28 feet \$500.00
  - 29 feet to 39 feet \$750.00
  - 40 feet to 49 feet \$1,750.00
  - 50 feet to 59 feet \$2,500.00
  - 60 feet to 79 feet \$3,500.00
  - 80 feet to 99 feet \$4,500.00
  - 100 feet to 199 feet \$6,250.00
  - 200 feet and over \$8,750.00

# PRIVATE BOAT FEES

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a motor boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

**B. Annual renewal of registration fees —**

19 feet and under	\$50.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$110.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$175.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$415.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$575.00
60 feet to 79 feet	\$750.00
80 feet to 99 feet	\$950.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$1,250.00
200 feet and over	\$2,000.00

For the purposes of this paragraph, the length of a motor boat shall be taken to be the distance between perpendiculars at the stem and the stern.

**C. Transfer of Registration Fee**

For each transfer of registration ..... \$ 50.00

**D. Duplicate Certificate of Registration Fee**

For every copy of a certificate ..... \$ 60.00

**E. Certificate of Deletion Fee**

For each deletion of a registration ..... \$ 100.00

**F. Inspection fees for motor boats**

19 feet and under	\$13.00
20 feet to 28 feet	\$16.00
29 feet to 39 feet	\$19.00
40 feet to 49 feet	\$25.00
50 feet to 59 feet	\$31.00
60 feet to 79 feet	\$40.00
80 feet to 99 feet	\$44.00
100 feet to 199 feet	\$50.00
200 feet and over	\$56.00

# PROCEDURE FOR LICENCING A VESSEL OWNED BY A NON- BAHAMIAN IN THE BAHAMAS

## FOREIGN YACHT CHARTER LICENCE

- Contact the local Port office to schedule a vessel inspection.
- Visit <https://portservices.gov.bs/Port/port.nsf/ForeignCharterRegistration.xsp> to complete and submit the application form.
- Collect licence once approved.

**IN THE ABSENCE OF A  
LOCAL PORT OFFICE,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
FOR THE ISLAND WHERE  
THE VESSEL IS LOCATED.  
FOR APPLICATIONS TO  
REGISTER VESSELS IN  
NEW PROVIDENCE, THE  
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**(242) 376-6032**



# **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO LICENCE A VESSEL OWNED BY A NON-BAHAMIAN IN THE BAHAMAS**

## **FOREIGN YACHT CHARTER LICENCE**

- ◆ CUSTOMS TRANSIRE
- ◆ VALID INSURANCE
- ◆ SHIP REGISTRATION FROM FLAG STATE

## **COMPLETE MASTER'S LICENCE APPLICATION FORM AND PROVIDE:**

- ◆ VALID PASSPORT OF SHIP MASTER
- ◆ VALID MARINER'S LICENCE



**THE  
NEW PROVIDENCE  
PORT AUTHORITY  
BOARD**

# ROLE OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD

**ONE OF THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD IS TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER/ LICENCE A COMMERCIAL VESSEL TO OPERATE IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.**

According to Sections 12 and 13 of the Ports Authorities Act, the New Providence Port Authority Board:

- ◆ Defines the limits of the harbours and anchorages in a port area and publishes the same in the Gazette.
- ◆ Causes buoys to be laid down.
- ◆ Adopts any other necessary and practicable means for the security of harbours, anchorages and pilotage in a port area.

# ROLE OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD

- ◆ To carry out preliminary examinations of persons desirous of becoming pilots, and to submit recommendations to the Minister as to the suitability of the applicants stating the maximum size of the vessel which may be piloted by the particular examinee.
- ◆ To report to the Minister cases of misconduct or dereliction of duty on the part of any pilot.
- ◆ To cause the scale of pilotage and other fees payable under the Ports Authorities Act to be printed, and copies thereof to be posted in the principal revenue office of the port area and to be supplied to each pilot.

An Administrator within a Family Island may act in the capacity of the New Providence Port Authority Board, to approve commercial boat applications for a specific port area.

# **MASTER / OPERATOR LICENCE**

# PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A MASTERS LICENCE

**ALL PERSONS OPERATING A VESSEL FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES IN THE BAHAMAS MUST OBTAIN A MASTER'S LICENCE PRIOR TO OPERATING**

A '**Class A**' licence permits one to operate a vessel throughout all port areas in The Bahamas.

A '**Class B**' licence permits one to operate a vessel within a specific port area in The Bahamas.

To obtain a **Class A or B** licence, an application must be made to the Port Department via <https://portservices.gov.bs/Port/port.nsf/MasterLicence.xsp>

A '**Class D**' licence permits one to operate a commercial water craft. (Jet Ski, Banana Boat, Parasail, etc.)

# PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A MASTER/ OPERATOR LICENCE

Supporting documents for  
Class A or B Licence (must be  
valid):

- ◆ Standards of Training and Certification of Watchkeeping (STCW)
- ◆ Medical certificate
- ◆ Police record
- ◆ Passport

Supporting documents for  
Class D (must be valid):

- ◆ Passport
- ◆ Medical certificate
- ◆ Bahama Host Certificate (Ministry of Tourism)
- ◆ Police record
- ◆ National Insurance card

To obtain a Class A master's licence, one must be a holder of a Class B master's licence for a minimum of six months.

# **NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD**

# NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD

**VESSELS WILL ALWAYS ENCOUNTER OTHER VESSELS WHILE OPERATING AT SEA. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERY BOATER TO KNOW THEIR ROLE TO ACT WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION**

When operating a vessel, the responsibilities between vessels are as follows:

A **power-driven** vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:

- ◆ a vessel not under command;
- ◆ a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver;
- ◆ a vessel engaged in fishing; and
- ◆ a sailing vessel.

A **sailing** vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:

- ◆ a vessel not under command;
- ◆ a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver; and
- ◆ a vessel engaged in fishing.

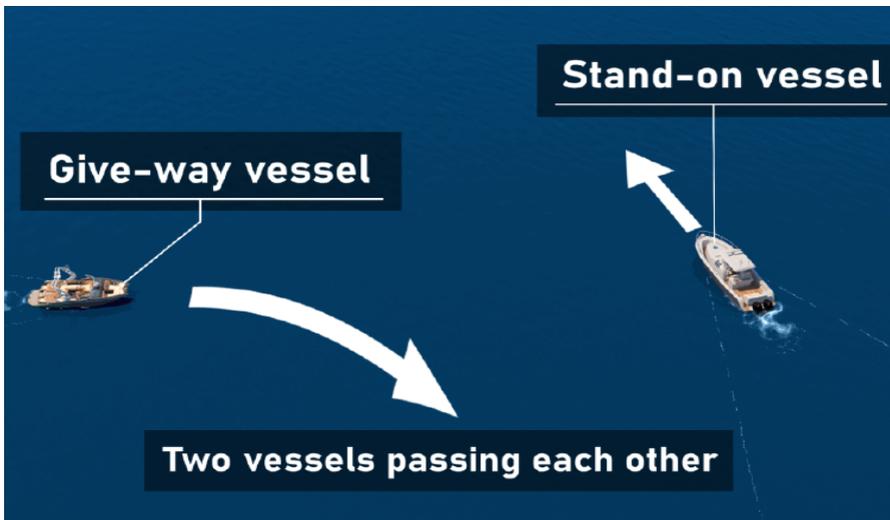
A **fishing** vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:

- ◆ a vessel not under command; and
- ◆ a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver.

# NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD

Two terms that every boater should know the definition of are :

- ◆ **Stand-on vessel** - The vessel which shall maintain its course and speed.
- ◆ **Give-way vessel** - The vessel which shall take action to avoid collision by stopping/slowng.

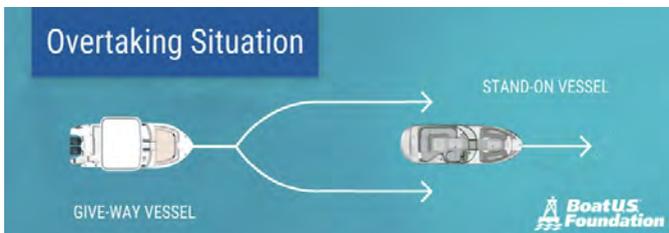
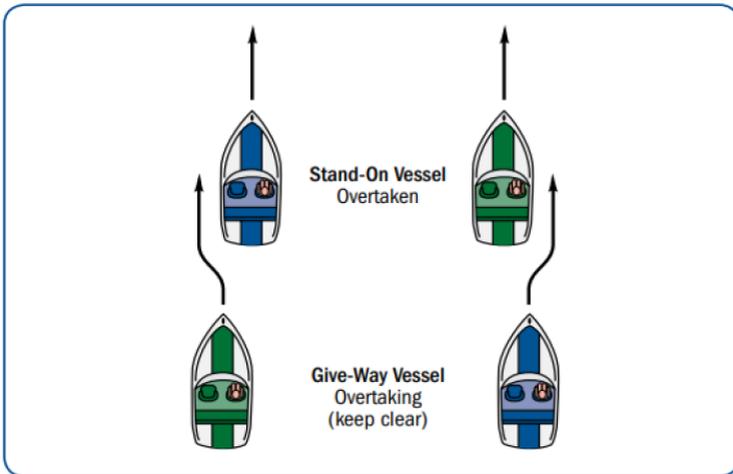


# NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD

## Overtaking Situation

It is the responsibility of the overtaking vessel to stay clear and out of the way of the vessel being overtaken.

Overtaking Situation (Navigation Rule 13)



# NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD

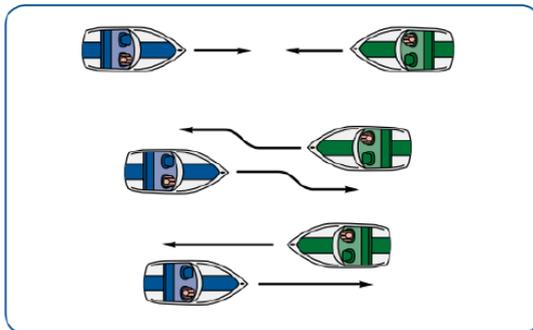
## Head-on Situation

In a head-on situation, both vessels should alter course to starboard as to keep clear of each other. This is otherwise known as passing “port to port”.



### Head-On Situation (Navigation Rule 14)

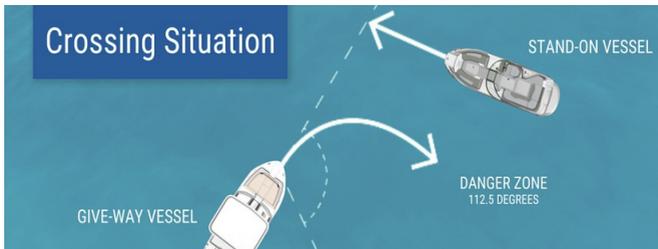
*Port-to-Port Passing (preferred)*



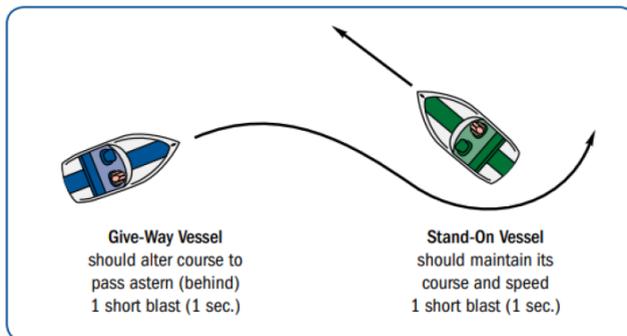
# NAVIGATION/ RULES OF THE ROAD

## Crossing Situation

If any vessel is crossing your bow from the starboard side, your vessel is the give-way vessel and you must take action by altering course to starboard to cross behind the stand-on vessel.



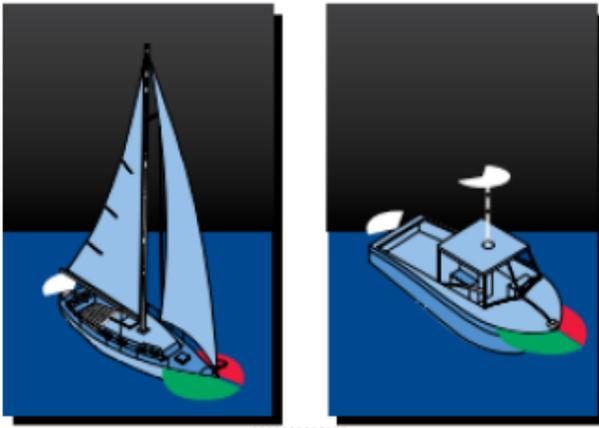
## Crossing Situation (Navigation Rule 15)



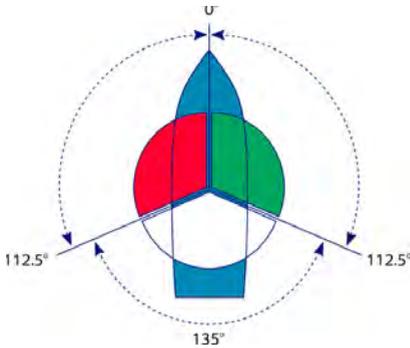
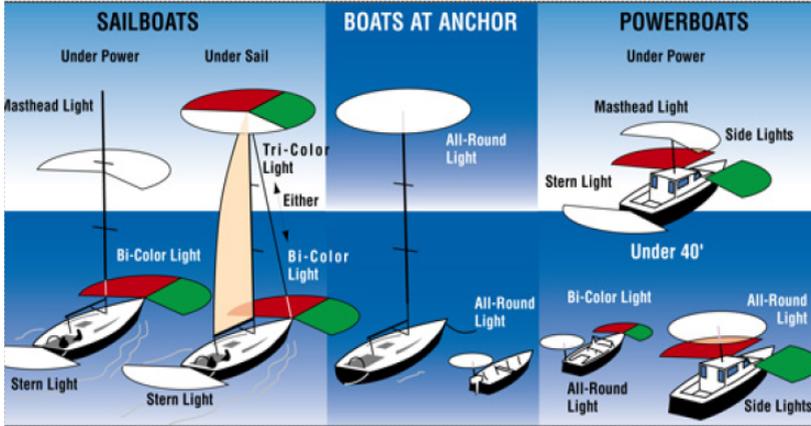
# NAVIGATION AT NIGHT

When sailing at night, it is very important for your vessel to have all required lights displayed. This includes sidelights, mastlights, and stern lights. The same rules/ actions apply to vessels at night when engaged in a head-on, crossing or overtaking situation.

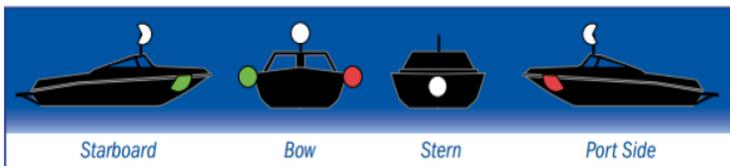
In addition to having your lights properly displayed, it is also important to maintain a lookout for the lights of other vessels. The number one reason the majority of boating accidents occur is due to negligence.



# NAVIGATION AT NIGHT



Vessels that do not have proper running lights fitted should not be operated after sunset. This includes all jet skis, dinghies or any other boating craft not equipped with proper lights.



# BOAT OPERATION & HANDLING

## Remember!

- ◆ Registration numbers must be visible on both sides of the vessel.
- ◆ A vessel should always be operated with a safe speed in order to have ample time to avoid a collision.
- ◆ No speeding or wake is allowed in the Nassau Harbour. The set speed limit in this zone is 5 knots.
- ◆ Do not anchor your vessel in unauthorized areas, such as areas with high traffic flow and marine protected areas.
- ◆ Under no circumstances should garbage, plastics, bottles or any form of litter be discarded from vessels into the water or onto beaches.

## The Port Department should be made aware of:

- ◆ A change in ownership of the vessel
- ◆ The fitting of any new engine
- ◆ The name change of a vessel

# MASTER/ CREW RESPONSIBILITIES, TRAINING AND DRILLS

## Master Responsibilities

- ◆ Always have the boat registration documents and master's licence present when operating a vessel.
- ◆ Pay strict attention to weather forecasts.
- ◆ Ensure proper maintenance, integrity and safety of your vessel.
- ◆ Always maintain a lookout while operating a vessel.
- ◆ Under **no circumstances** should a vessel be operated under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

# MASTER/ CREW RESPONSIBILITIES, TRAINING AND DRILLS

## Crew Responsibilities

- ◆ All crew members/ deckhands should have a valid STCW certificate.
- ◆ Deckhands/ crew members should be alert and assist as look outs while the vessel is being operated.

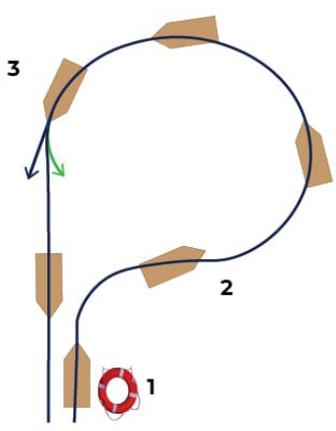




# **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## Man Overboard:

iMariners.com <b>WILLIAMSON TURN</b>	
<p><b>Standard Williamson Turn</b></p> 	<p><b>Williamson Turn Procedure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Put the wheel hard over towards the casualty (Man overboard Stbd side)</li><li>2. When the vessel deviates 60° from the original course, put the wheel hard over to the opposite side.</li><li>3. When 20° from reciprocal course put the wheel on midships and steady the course on your reciprocal course.</li></ol> <p><b>Example: If A Person Overboard on Starboard Side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Your Original course 000°</li><li>- Put the wheel on hard stbd, once your heading reaches 060°</li><li>- at a heading of 200°, put the wheel on amidships and steady to a reciprocal course of 180°.</li></ul>

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## VITAL ACTIONS TO ASSIST A MAN OVERBOARD

### **Immediate Actions - Deck**

- ◆ Throw nearest lifebuoy towards casualty.
- ◆ Notify bridge/ raise the alarm.
- ◆ Summon assistance.
- ◆ Keep casualty in sight.
- ◆ Advise action party of situation.

### **Immediate actions - Bridge**

- ◆ Helm hard over to casualty side.
- ◆ Stop main engine.
- ◆ Sound man overboard alarm (three long blasts on ship siren)
- ◆ Release bridge wing lifebuoy. Check for light and/or smoke.
- ◆ Inform galley to cease discharge of food slops.

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## VITAL ACTIONS TO ASSIST A MAN OVERBOARD

### **Initial Response - at sea**

- ◆ Commence ship's return.
- ◆ Post extra lookouts with binoculars.
- ◆ Ready and launch rescue boat when casualty is visible.
- ◆ Rig ladders and scramble nets.
- ◆ Prepare first aid station. Equip for resuscitation.

### **Initial response - at anchor or in harbor**

- ◆ If close to ship's side, use lifebuoy with line, otherwise throw lifebuoy
- ◆ Muster rescue boat crew and establish communication with rescue boat.
- ◆ Inform shore side authorities, including the Port Department.
- ◆ Post extra look-outs.
- ◆ Rig ladders and scramble nets.
- ◆ Prepare first aid station. Equip for resuscitation.

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

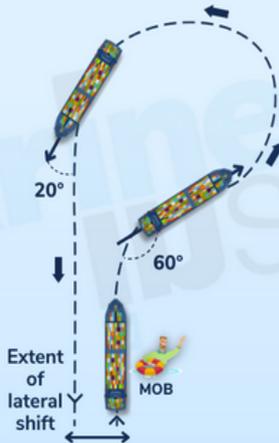
## 3 ALTERNATIVE TURNS FOR RECOVERING MAN OVERBOARD

**Anderson Turn**



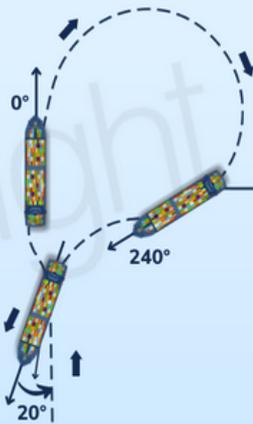
- Use full rudder towards MOB Side
- Slow Down Speed at this point
- Stop engines when the victim is within 15° of bow
- Release lifeboat to recover MOB

**Williamson Turn**



- Turn wheel hard-over to MOB Side
- When 60° off original course, wheel is put hard over in opposite direction
- When 20° short of opposite course, turn rudder to midship position

**Scharnow Turn**



- Rudder hard over
- After deviating from the original course by 240°, rudder hard over to the opposite side.
- When heading 20° short of opposite course, rudder to midship position so that ship will turn to opposite course

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## VITAL ACTIONS TO ABANDON SHIP

### **On hearing the emergency signal**

- ◆ Put on warm clothing, immersion suits and lifejackets. Go to your muster/ assembly station.

### **Preparation of survival craft**

- ◆ Detailed crew prepare lifeboats and liferafts.
- ◆ Collect lifejackets, SART and portable radios.

### **Boarding from deck**

- ◆ Do not abandon ship until ordered to do so.
- ◆ Detailed crew will instruct personnel on embarkation procedures and launch survival craft.

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## **Boarding from water**

- ◆ Do not jump into the water unless absolutely necessary
- ◆ Board the survival craft using ropes and fire hoses when normal access is unavailable

If you do have to jump into the water then ensure the following:

- ◆ Lifejacket is securely fastened and area below is checked for obstructions
- ◆ Arms are crossed over chest and nose is pinched. Feet are kept together.
- ◆ Then look straight ahead and jump feet first with legs together and toes pointing down.
- ◆ Make for the nearest survival craft.
- ◆ DO NOT stay in the water longer than necessary.
- ◆ If no survival craft is close, keep clear of the ship and let the lifejacket support you
- ◆ Use the light and whistle to attract attention.
- ◆ DO NOT swim aimlessly about, try and join up with others.
- ◆ DO NOT jump into survival craft.

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The Main Causes of Boat Motor Fire		
Electrical issues 	Fuel 	Overheating of the motor 

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## Fire on board:

The infographic is divided into three horizontal panels, each with a light blue background and a red callout box containing text. The first panel shows a red stop button, a stop sign with a traffic cone, a boat with smoke, and hands holding a life preserver. The second panel shows a location pin with a red 'X', a boat on a blue base, and hands holding a green shield with a checkmark. The third panel shows a fire extinguisher, a firefighter spraying water on a boat, and a person with a fire blanket.

**Stop the Boat Immediately**

**Position the Boat Safely**

**Extinguish the Fire**

# SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All vessels **must** be equipped with:

- ◆ GPS / charts
- ◆ VHF Radio
- ◆ Compass
- ◆ Navigation Lights
- ◆ Anchor (Minimum 1)
- ◆ Pyrotechnic Distress Signals
- ◆ Fire extinguisher ( Minimum 1)
- ◆ Emergency Searchlight
- ◆ Toolbox
- ◆ Sound Producing Device
- ◆ Day Time Signals
- ◆ First Aid Kit



# WATERSPORT ACTIVITIES



- ◆ All commercial water sport activities should be conducted with authorized vendors who have a Port Department identification badge.
- ◆ In New Providence, water sport activities should only take place at the authorized venues:
  - ◆ Paradise Island Beach (West and East)
  - ◆ Cable Beach (West and East)
  - ◆ Goodman's Bay Beach
  - ◆ Athol Island

No jet ski operations are to take place at Montagu Beach, Junkanoo Beach or the Arawak Cay vicinity.

- ◆ All persons conducting water sport activities should have a life vest on.
- ◆ All persons operating a jet ski should always be mindful of their speed as jet skis do not have brakes.
- ◆ All persons operating a jet ski should not operate within 200ft of the shore line unless inside of the authorized channels for the purpose of entering and exiting the beach.

- ◆ **No water sport activities are to take place after sunset.**



**HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS  
AND  
WEATHER  
CONSIDERATIONS**

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ **Monitor the weather forecasts**, and be guided by the warnings and advisement of meteorologists, the Port Department and the Ministry of Energy and Transport
- ◆ Remove anything that is not permanently a part of the boat and keep all insurance and Boat Registration documents in **a safe place**
- ◆ Ensure all hatches are **secure**
- ◆ Cover mooring lines with hose or rubber to **prevent chafing**
- ◆ Put **extra fenders** in place to prevent the vessel from rubbing against the pier

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ Ensure that **batteries** are charged so that **bilge pumps** can run throughout the storm. Shut off all other devices that may consume electricity
- ◆ Do **not attempt to stay onboard** or use your vessel to out-run or ride out the storm
- ◆ If your boat is trailerable, it is best advised **to haul** it out of the water to a safe location
- ◆ If your vessel must stay in at berth, double all lines and rig-cross spring lines fore and aft. **Attach lines high on pilings** to allow for tidal rise or surge. Drop anchor for additional security

# **CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

On larger boats, generators are often located at the rear of the boat, which can pose a risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning to individuals on the rear swim deck or water platform. Here are some key points to remember:

- ◆ CO can accumulate above the water near the water platform on larger boats.
- ◆ Accumulated CO in the air space beneath the stern deck or around the swim deck can be fatal within seconds.
- ◆ Traveling at slow speeds or idling in the water can lead to CO buildup in various areas of the boat, such as the cabin, cockpit, bridge, aft deck, or open spaces.
- ◆ Wind coming from the aft section of the boat can exacerbate the CO buildup.

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

The most common symptoms of CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning are:

- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Weakness
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Chest pain
- ◆ Confusion



High levels of CO inhalation can cause death. CO poisoning can also cause you to pass out and fall into the water and drown. A person who is sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.



# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

## **Things to remember:**

- ◆ Properly install and maintain all fuel-burning engines and appliances.
- ◆ Recognize the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.
- ◆ Swim and play away from areas where engines vent their exhaust.
- ◆ Watch children closely when they play on rear swim decks or water platforms.
- ◆ Never block exhaust outlets. Blocking outlets can cause CO to build up in cabin and cockpit areas.
- ◆ Dock, beach, or anchor at least 20 feet away from the nearest boat that is running a generator or engine.

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

## **When to seek emergency care:**

If you think a person on your boat has CO poisoning move them to fresh air right away and contact the nearest emergency services



**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS AND  
ADDITIONAL  
THINGS TO  
REMEMBER**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** Are life jackets required to be carried on my recreational boat?

**A:** Yes, a recreational vessel is required to have safety equipment on board, including life vests.

**Q:** If I lose my boating licence, how do I obtain a replacement?

**A:** Contact the Port Department to apply for a replacement licence.

**Q:** What do I need to register my boat in The Bahamas?

**A:**

1. Completed Application
2. Inspection
3. Customer ID
4. Proof of Ownership
5. Vessel Title
6. Customs Documentantion

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** What are the supporting documents to renew a boat?

1. Application
2. Vessel Inspection
3. Identification Card
4. Proof of Ownership



**Q:** Do I need to display the registration numbers on my vessel?

**A:** Yes, you are required to have your registration numbers displayed on the port and starboard of your vessel, at a minimum of 4 inches per character.

**Q:** Where do I find the boating laws in the Bahamas?

**A:** All laws are available online at:  
[www.laws.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.laws.bahamas.gov.bs)

# THINGS TO REMEMBER

## Fueling

- ◆ Shut engine off prior to fueling.
- ◆ Remove all passengers from boat.
- ◆ Do not smoke!
- ◆ Turn off electronics.
- ◆ Be certain you are putting fuel in fuel tank, not water tank or rod holder!
- ◆ Always fuel a new boat slowly

## Launching

- ◆ Always check for favorable weather prior to boating.
- ◆ Check that drain plug is installed in bottom of boat.
- ◆ Leave trailer completely connected to vehicle prior to backing down boat ramp.
- ◆ Disconnect trailer lights.

- 66 ◆ Verify that ample safety equipment is onboard.

# **COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS**

# COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

- ◆ In the event of any emergency out to sea, communication can be made to the Nassau Harbor Control, via Channel 16 (VHF) 24/7.
- ◆ It is highly advised that mariners in Nassau make the Nassau Harbor Control aware before departing. No matter how far or close you intend to go out, or how skilled or experienced you are, **things happen!**
- ◆ It is wise to always **make someone aware** of your intended destination and duration. This allows for accountability and for persons to expect your return. In the event that something may have happened, a search can be activated swiftly, based on the information given prior to your departure.



# **EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST**

# EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST



- ◆ **Royal Bahamas Defence Force  
Harbour Patrol Unit - (242)-362-3775**
  
- ◆ **Nassau Harbour Control - (242)-604-000 CH.16 VHF**
  
- ◆ **Port Department Inspection Unit - (242) 376 - 6032**
  
- ◆ **Royal Bahamas Police Force Harbour Control Unit -  
(242)-326-4004**
  
- ◆ **Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA)  
- (242)-727-4165**
  
- ◆ **Port Department (Main Office) - (242)-302-0200**  
  
**email: [portcustomerservice@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:portcustomerservice@bahamas.gov.bs)**

# FLOAT PLANS

# FLOAT PLANS

A float plan is a concise overview of a boat excursion, allowing authorities to initiate search operations promptly in case the boater fails to arrive at their planned destination.

To make the most of your time on the water, prioritize safety by sharing a float plan with a trusted person before departure. Update them if plans change to ensure safety in emergencies.

The Boat Operator typically creates the Float Plan, but all onboard should know the importance of sharing destination and return details.

# ATTENTION ALL MARINERS!

- ◆ Whether you are operating in The Bahamas for pleasure or commercial purposes, always remember that safety reigns supreme!
- ◆ Be attuned to the ticking clock of operational hours! A well-maintained vessel is a safe vessel. Stay sharp, stay vigilant, and ensure that all commercial activities are executed with the precision of a master mariner.
- ◆ Sharpen your awareness of the deep blues' inhabitants. Shark attacks may be rare, but why take chances? Refrain from entering the water if you or a guest is bleeding in any way, or if wearing shiny jewelry. One might attract the wrong attention from potentially-harmful creatures.
- ◆ In every wave that crashes against the hull, and every gust of wind that fills our sails, safety should resonate like a guiding mantra. We owe it to ourselves, our crew and our passengers to prioritize safety above all else!

# **LAWS AND REFERENCES**

# RELEVANT ACTS

All boating and maritime laws as it relates to The Bahamas can be found via the following:

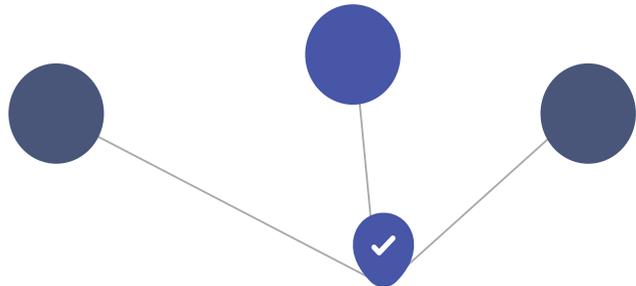
- ◆ **Port Authorities Act**
- ◆ **Waterskiing and Motorboat Control Act**
- ◆ **Commercial Recreational Watercraft Act**
- ◆ **Boat Registration Act**
- ◆ **Boat Registration (Yacht) Rules**

All laws are available online at:

[www.laws.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.laws.bahamas.gov.bs)

# REFERENCES

- ◆ <https://www.topnotchmarine.com/basic-boating-check-list/>
- ◆ <https://uscgboating.org/images/486.PDF>
- ◆ <https://uscgboating.org/>
- ◆ <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- ◆ Port Authorities Act (Chapter 269)
- ◆ Waterskiing and Motorboat Control Act (Chapter 278)
- ◆ Commercial Recreational Watercraft Act (Chapter 278A)
- ◆ Boat Registration Act (Chapter 277)
- ◆ Boat Registration (Yacht) Rules
- ◆ [www.marinelite.gr](http://www.marinelite.gr)
- ◆ [www.maritime.edu](http://www.maritime.edu)



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