

WATCHKEEPING (Draft 2: 6/12)

Goal: The purpose of this training is to provide information and skills to prevent and minimize the risk to people and vessels with proper watchkeeping standards.

Objectives: After successful completion of the Watchkeeping component, participants should be able to:

1. State that the officer in charge of the watch is responsible for navigating safely with particular regard to avoiding collision and stranding.
2. List factors to be taken into account when deciding the composition of the watch on the bridge.
3. Identify proper procedures for relieving a watch: allow 15 minutes for waking; an orientation that includes position information, condition of vessel and running lights, and current course takes place and is noted in the log; ensure required charts and publications are available and in good order; running lights should be checked by the watch at dusk and prior to each relief during hours of darkness;
4. State watch duties should be so arranged that the efficiency of watchkeepers is not impaired by fatigue.
5. Describe how the intended fishing trip should be planned in advance.
6. State that the skipper should ensure that officers in charge of watches know the location and operation of all navigational and safety equipment and can take account of the operating limitations of such equipment.
7. State that the skipper should ensure the officers in charge of watches check the course steered, position and speed to ensure the vessel follows the planned course.
8. State the officer in charge of a navigational watch should not be assigned or undertake any duties which would interfere with the safe navigation of the vessel.
9. List conditions which would make it necessary to wake the captain: worsening weather; unclear passing situation with another vessel; confusion about current position; change in vessel stability; systems or problems that compromise safety; other.