

# Sharing the Waters with Large Vessels:

## Guidelines for Commercial Fishermen



*As Commercial Fishermen We Are Members of the Maritime Community and That Carries With It a Responsibility to Understand the Constraints of Others*

### COMMUNICATE

1. Monitor VHF 16 and answer the radio. Change to channel 13, ship to ship, to communicate with other vessels. State your Vessel name and location. Speak clearly. The radio is an important tool.
2. Be clear in your movements and communications. Avoid ambiguity, know what traffic is around you and be clear in your intentions. Communicate your intentions both by radio and maneuvers.

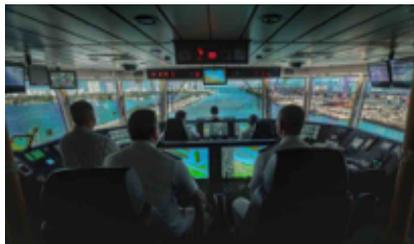
### BE AWARE

1. Where are you? Make sure your crew knows where they are and where safe water is so they can deviate off the trackline.
2. Fatigue. If you are tired, WAKE someone up.
3. Know established cruise ship tracklines. Tracklines and estimated schedules are available. See the USAG website [www.ahgillnet.org/](http://www.ahgillnet.org/).
4. Rules of the Road. Know the Rules of the Road and use common sense. Understand that even with the rules, tugs and barges, ferries and cruise ships are often constrained by under keel clearance and maneuvering limitations. Waiting five minutes, slowing down to let larger traffic by, altering your course, passing its stern and communicating your intentions can all ease traffic situations.
5. Constant Bearing, decreasing distance means you are on a collision course.
6. Anchoring: Cruise ships have a greater swept path, especially with current and/or wind. Don't be the pingpong ball for a 1000' paddle.



### MANEUVERABILITY RESTRICTIONS

1. Understand the limitations of others.  
Ships and tugs are constrained by draft. They need more room to maneuver and take more time and space to turn and stop than fishing vessels.
2. Speed, time and distance. A cruise ship moving at 20 knots will cover 2 nm in 6 minutes. Look behind you.
3. Stop. Even at slow speeds (2-3 knots) and full astern a cruise will still travel up to at least a ship's length (1000'-2000') before stopping. At 10 knots and higher, stopping can take as much as a half mile.
3. Height of eye. A cruise ship will look farther than they really are. Avoid crossing their bow and pass astern instead. If you see them, you can't beat them. For example, if you are 10 feet above the water and can see a cruise ship's waterline it means they are 3.7 nm away and will be at your position in roughly 10 minutes.



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