

IS ACTION NECESSARY?

By Richard Sorokin

Piloting a boat in the vicinity of other boats, how do you know when avoidance action is necessary? When do the rules of the road come into play?

It's relatively easy. When you see another vessel underway, make note on your boat, is it near a stanchion, a chock, a stay or a rail? Mark his position on your boat. Watch the vessel; if it appears to move forward on your vessel then he will pass ahead of you. If he appears to drop back, you will cross ahead of him. If, however, his position on your vessel remains the same, then you are on a collision course and action by you or him is necessary.

You can speed up, slowdown or follow the rules of the road; give way or stand on. You have to look around and make a decision to act.

Collisions must be avoided at all times regardless of the rules. Being in command of a vessel is to assume a responsibility.