

LOOKOUTS

By Richard Sorokin

Requirements: 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 appraisal of the situation and risk of collision.

This means other people on board have to act as lookouts to assist the skipper. Lookouts report objects type, color, shape, size and relative bearing. This means that bearings are measured with reference to the vessel's heading. Or to the fore and aft line of the boat's keel. These bearings run clockwise from zero (000*) ahead, through one-eight-zero degrees (180*) or dead astern, around to three-six-zero degrees (360) or dead ahead again.