

41126 3 2 1 Rabbits, coons, possums, deer, and dogs have grown heavy coats this fall on Sullivan's Island. Uncle Bubba and Dockas give lengthy arthritis reports. Ducks Unlimited predicts the largest waterfowl migration since the 70's. ~~Wal Mart in Pleasant Mountain is rumored to have sold out of longjohns.~~ Cold weather is a comin' friends and today we feature our second in a series of six segments on winter safety afloat.

We planned to cover the do's and don't of winter sailing during our series, but Boudreau, Thibideaux, and Dugais last week already over emphasized the don'ts. It may take all five remaining weeks just to get back even.

Today we consider Rules 2 and 5. First, Rule 2. Under the ~~International Rules of The Road and the Inland Rules of the Road,~~ Rule 2 provides the general prudential rule. Mariners cannot rely alone on compliance with the Rules of the Road, but must take precautions required by the ordinary practice of seamen or required by special circumstances. ^{This simply means} Be careful. Take reasonable precautions.

Rule 2 also clarifies that a departure from the Rules of the Road may become necessary to avoid immediate danger. Consider the requirements of the Rules. Consider the circumstances. Consider the immediate danger ^{and} Do the necessary to avoid immediate danger, even if you must break the rules. ~~Avoid immediate danger.~~

Rule 5. In my experience, violation of Rule 5 is the most common cause of collision between vessels of all sizes. Again the International Rule and the Inland Rule are the same. "Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out 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 of the risk of collision." ^{This just means -} Watch where you're going.

On many vessels where visibility ahead is restricted by cargo or some part of the vessel herself, a look-out may be posted at the bow or some place of better visibility. This practice is diametrically opposed to the common practice in automobiles of posting the look-out in the back seat.

OK. Let's summarize. Be careful. Take reasonable precautions. Avoid immediate danger. Watch where you're going.

Next week on The Admiralty Docket, Rule 6 Safe Speed. Until then, remember your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing.

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