

51007 3 2 1 Today, I have a little quiz. Five questions. True or false. Good luck, your grade will depend on your performance.

Question 1. True or false? On her recent North Atlantic crossing to New York the QE2 was struck by a huge rogue wave which caused hull damage to the luxury liner. True or false?

True, a huge wave recently struck and damaged the QE2 while on a voyage to New York.

Question 2. True or false? The luxury cruise ship QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 was built in London, England. True or false?

False. The QE2 was built by John Brown Engineering Limited at Clydebank, Scotland in 1968.

Question 3. True or false? In order to avoid the conclusion that he has abandoned his vessel without intent to return, the master of a ship must leave a dog, a bird, or at least a cockroach on board to prove his intent to return. True or false?

False. Under the general maritime law the intentions of the owners, captain, and crew to return to the ship may be proved by sworn testimony of witnesses, documents, signs erected upon the ship, or by other evidence indicating intent. It has been held that the act of leaving a cockroach on board was little evidence of an intent to return and may actually indicate an intention never to return.

Question 4. True or false? If he has no means to anchor a stranded vessel, the master may tie it to the shore with a rope or a string or even a thread, to defeat the presumption of abandonment which applies to an unmanned vessel in distress. True or false?

True. An unmanned vessel in distress is presumed to be

abandoned unless her master can prove otherwise. Proof may be in many forms, and sworn testimony is the most common proof, but actions and even symbolic actions can be considered as proof.

Question 5. True or false? A boat operator's license is required to operate a boat in state waters? True or false?

False in 46 states. True in 4 states. Soon to be true in more states.

More next week on The Admiralty Docket. Until then, remember your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing. 51007