



Background

Some of the safety issues associated with groundings and collisions are related to inadequate passage planning, lack of situational awareness, and poor communications. These can be due to inadequate training, poor navigational practices, and a lack of supporting safety systems.

The Master or Master in-charge should ensure that arrival and departure to/from port is properly planned from berth to berth, in accordance with SOLAS chapter V Regulation 34, Annex 24 and 25 – Guidelines for Voyage Planning (IMO Resolution 893 (21)).

The following items should be taken into account in passage planning:

- anchorages and pilotage area;
- underwater obstacles such as oil/gas pipelines;
- latest Notice to Mariners, navigational warnings and chart/list of lights corrections;
- prevailing tides, currents, weather and sea conditions to be expected;
- available width of channel;
- water depth and under keel clearance;
- ship/vessel conditions such as draft, defects, and manoeuvring performance;
- shallow water effect;
- appropriate speed;
- abort and contingencies;
- tug engagement and rendezvousing area;
- assisting tugs positioning (to be positioned appropriately, in consultation with tugs);
- pilotage requirement;
- overhanging and protrudes;
- reporting, VHF Channel, and communication procedure;
- shipping traffic pattern;
- previous voyage experience;
- passage plan must be available onboard and should be discussed with pilots / assisting tugs at an appropriate time and location, i.e. prior to commencement of operations;
- changes or deviation made to the plan should be clearly marked, recorded, and communicated to relevant parties involved in good time for safe operation.

Note: Masters and officers in charge of a navigational watch are responsible for the safe navigation of their vessels at all times, including when a pilot is on board. The master should ensure the bridge remains adequately manned and under the responsibility of a certificated officer in charge of a navigational watch.

RAK Ports will produce generic Passage Plans to aid the Master and Officers to prepare their own plan. When completed they will be posted to the Marine section of the RAK Ports website.

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