



Prevention of Collision at Sea – Fishing the Deep

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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As we've delved deeper into the Rules as they pertain to "Lights and Shapes," I have laid the ground work for these next sets of Rules, which are considerably more "intense" in their application of these so-called "Lights and Shapes." Why? Because they have to do primarily with commerce over the open seas where the life blood of the U.S. and the world economies still flow. Despite our high-tech economy and the reliance on the airline industry for transport, the OECD reports that 90 percent of the world's goods are still transported by sea. This being the case, we had better understand what we are signaling to each other, with our Lights and Shapes...

What We Are Going to Focus On

In this column and the ones ahead, we will focus on the primary commercial applications of the Rules:

Rule 26: Fishing Vessels (and I don't mean you and your 26' Grady...)

Rule 27: Vessels Not Under Command-NUCs-and Those Restricted in Their Ability to Maneuver-RAMs

Rule 28: Vessels Constrained by

their Draft (and I don't mean by buoy 26!)

Rule 29: Pilots-Who brings the leviathans into a crowded harbor?

Rule 30: Anchored and Aground

Rule 31: Seaplanes

What Does Rule 26 Say?

A lot—and a fishing vessel as it pertains to Rule 26 is a vessel trawling or fishing by means of dragging through the water nets, dredges, lines or "other apparatus used as a fishing appliance." They don't mean us, drifting with the wind and a Penn reel in our hand.

The lights on a commercial fishing vessel are just the same as any vessel as described in Rule 21 (see "Lights! Camera! Action!," SSP, February 6, 2008). If she is underway, she shall exhibit side lights of red and green,

white masthead light and white stern light. If at anchor, she shall exhibit lights associated with that condition (no running or side lights!). In addition to all those responsibilities, she is charged with two important additions: "Green over White, We Be Shrimping Tonight" or "Red over White, We Be Fishing Tonight." What does that mean?

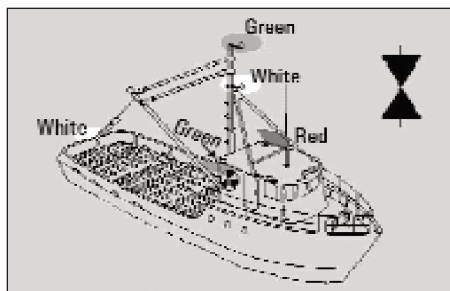
We Be Shrimping Tonight

If the commercial vessel is pulling a dredge or nets astern, she will exhibit the green and white light configuration. Don't get in behind her as she may be pulling lines for miles astern. If she is greater than 50 meters, her mast light must be above the red light so she'll show "white over green over white." As with all commercial fishing vessels, she must

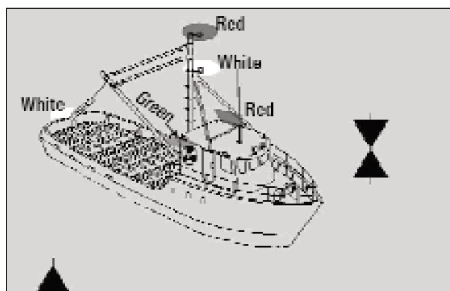
exhibit the "shape consisting of two cones with their apexes together in a vertical line one above the other."

We Be Fishing Tonight

If the commercial vessel has fishing gear extended abeam, she will exhibit the red and white light configuration. Also, if the gear is extending more than 150 meters horizontally from the vessel, she shall show a white light and "cone apex upwards" in the direction of the gear. Like the "shrimper," if she is greater than 50 meters, her mast light must be above the red light so she'll show "white over red over white." As with all commercial fishing vessels, she must exhibit the "shape consisting of two cones with their apexes together in a vertical line one above the other."



Courtesy of USCG Rules of Navigation



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Lots of lights, complex shapes = stay away, Bunky!

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2008@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

Joan's View Victory Party

story and photos by Joan Travan

February 11: Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei was joined by hundreds of friends and supporters at a Victory Party held at the West Lake Inn on Main Street in Patchogue.

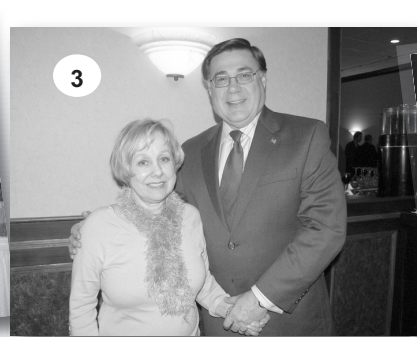
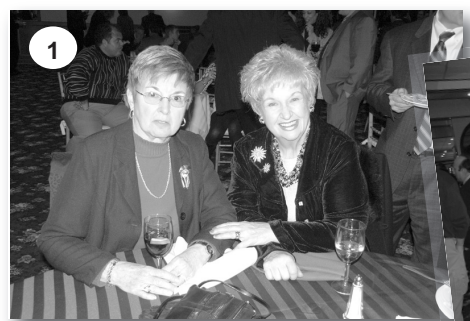
The victory party was recognition for winning the majority on the

town board last November. The town board consists of six council people representing the six council districts geographically placed in the town and the town supervisor. Before the election the board consisted of four Democrats and three Republicans. After the election last

November the board consists of four Republicans and three Democrats.

Mazzei and the majority Kathy Walsh, Keith Romaine and Jane Bonner, promise lower taxes, better services and transparency in government.

Mazzei, the majority leader, was appreciative and elated by the outstanding attendance at the evening's fundraiser. "Good people come to my fundraisers," he said. "We're only going to get better; we won the majority and we're not giving it back."



1. Madeline Grosso and Joan Hudson
2. Councilwoman Kathy Walsh and Lois Fricke
3. Marita Morello with Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine
4. Councilman Tim Mazzei with Karen and Steve Wilutis
5. Councilman Keith Romaine and John Jay LaValle
6. Councilpersons Keith Romaine, Tim Mazzei and Kathy Walsh
7. Brian Egan, Tom Muratore, Marty Haley and Robert DiCarlo