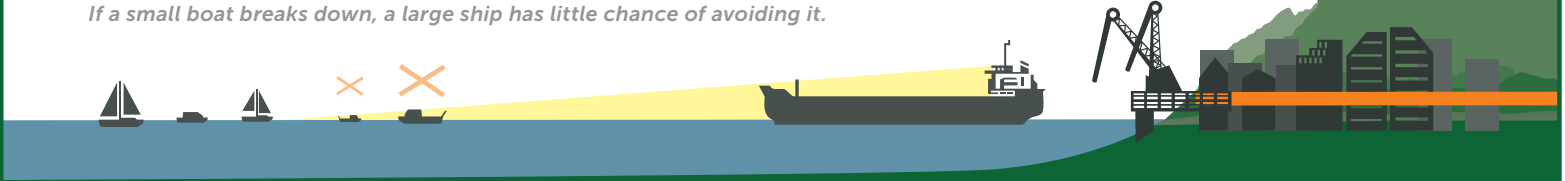


# Safety in BC Waters

*A cautious mariner will avoid crossing ahead of a large ship at a close distance.  
If a small boat breaks down, a large ship has little chance of avoiding it.*



Trans Mountain is actively supporting the Pacific Pilotage Authority (PPA) and Transport Canada's work to raise awareness about boating safety in the vicinity of large commercial vessels. The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) team members have been in close contact with the marine community highlighting several technical and procedural safety precautions for small craft operators on our local marine waterways.

## SAFE NAVIGATION OF DEEP SEA SHIPPING AREAS

A large deep-sea vessel such as a tanker, bulk carrier or a container ship navigates in designated marine vessel traffic lanes in well-established patterns of movement. Due to their size and momentum, these ships may not find it easy to deviate from a course or come to an immediate stop. As such, there is risk of harm to a pleasure craft or other small boat that impedes its path.

The course and speed of a large ship is controlled from the bridge of the vessel, which is located at the top level. The line of visibility from the ship's bridge is limited when it comes to seeing a small craft close to its bow. In essence, if a boat operator cannot see the bridge windows of a large ship – which can happen if the operator decides to cut close across its bow rather than wait for it to pass – then the ship cannot see the boat. It is prudent seamanship for small vessels such as pleasure craft to follow the requirements of the Collision Regulations and avoid crossing ahead of an underway ship, but if required to do so then keep no less than 500 metres ahead of the ship.

It is recommended that boaters try and make their vessels and themselves more visible to large vessels by painting their boats in more visible colours and also, especially for kayakers, wear bright clothing and consider flying a bright pennant.

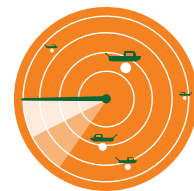
**Trans Mountain is joining the PPA in circulating a new brochure titled Safe Boating in Deep Sea Shipping Navigation Areas.<sup>1</sup> IT HAS SAFETY TIPS BOATERS CAN USE TO AVOID RISKS:**



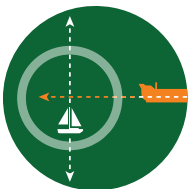
- Maintain a lookout by sight and sound. Ships will sound five short and rapid blasts on the ship's horn as a warning signal



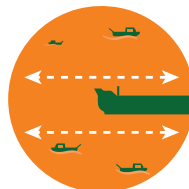
- Make sure the required navigational lights are displayed properly between sunset and sunrise



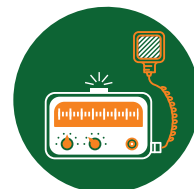
- Consider fitting your small craft with AIS (Automatic Identification System) or a radar reflector to be more visible to large vessels



- Be aware of large ships in the shipping lanes and keep as near to the outer edge as possible; cross shipping lanes at a 90-degree angle and avoid crossing close ahead of large ships



- Avoid travelling or fishing in a shipping lane or designated traffic separation scheme. If fishing is allowed in a shipping lane or designated traffic separation scheme, keep as near to the outer edge as possible and leave the centre of the channel open for large ship traffic.



- Keep a listening watch on the appropriate VHF channel

<sup>1</sup>Pacific Pilotage Authority brochure "Safe Boating in Deep Sea Shipping Navigation Areas"  
[ppa.gc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/PPA%20Safe%20Navigation%202019%20Web%20E.pdf](http://ppa.gc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/PPA%20Safe%20Navigation%202019%20Web%20E.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>The Collision Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act 2001 can be found at:  
[laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1416](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1416)

**Collision Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act (2001)<sup>2</sup> take priority at all times – be completely familiar with these Rules of the Road and any local regulations.**

# Additional resources for boaters in BC's marine waters:

**Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide:** Transport Canada publishes this resource for boaters to be aware of regulations that apply to boating and safe and responsible boating practices. Download at: [silkstart.s3.amazonaws.com/579bad7c2ef2023fa3775a34.pdf](https://silkstart.s3.amazonaws.com/579bad7c2ef2023fa3775a34.pdf)

**Pacific Pilotage Authority:** The PPA has produced a brochure "Safe Boating in Deep Sea Shipping Navigation Areas" that is available. Download at: [ppa.gc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/PPA%20Safe%20Navigation%202019%20Web%20E.pdf](https://ppa.gc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/PPA%20Safe%20Navigation%202019%20Web%20E.pdf)

**Boating Safety App:** Available for download is a Discover Boating app for smartphones. It provides information about the key rules, guidelines and best practices to help boaters stay safe on water. Download at: [discoverboating.ca/safe-boating-app](https://discoverboating.ca/safe-boating-app)

**Port Information Guide:** The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) Port Information Guide contains a set of localized practices and procedures designed to promote safe and efficient navigation within the waters of the port and support efforts to protect the marine environment. Download at: [portvancouver.com/marine-operations/port-information-guide/](https://portvancouver.com/marine-operations/port-information-guide/)

**VFPA safe boating guides:** The VFPA have also developed safe boating guides for recreational boaters for Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River that are available for download on the VFPA website:

**Burrard Inlet:** Exercise caution in busy port areas, including the First and Second Narrows, where tide and wind conditions may cause turbulent seas, as well as approaches to Coal Harbour and Aircraft Operations Zones. Download at: [portvancouver.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SafeBoatingGuide-BurrardInlet.pdf](https://portvancouver.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SafeBoatingGuide-BurrardInlet.pdf)

**Fraser River:** Narrow channels on the Fraser River can make navigation challenging for deep-sea vessels and working tugs. Take caution when passing and keep wake to a minimum. Download at: [portvancouver.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SafeBoating-FraserRiver.pdf](https://portvancouver.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SafeBoating-FraserRiver.pdf)

**Boating BC Association:** Outlines five key steps to safer boating along with other resources for recreational boaters. Visit: [boatingbc.ca/cpages/safe-boating](https://boatingbc.ca/cpages/safe-boating)



SOOKE, VANCOUVER ISLAND  
(SALISH SEA COMMUNITY)

There are also a number of free apps on the internet that can provide information on movements of large ships in their location. These may be of interest to operators who would like to remain aware of the proximity of large ships.

BURRARD INLET



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🐦 [@TransMtn](https://twitter.com/TransMtn)

☎ 1.866.514.6700

📺 [youtube.com/transmtn](https://youtube.com/transmtn)

💻 [transmountain.com](https://transmountain.com)

🌐 [in.](https://www.linkedin.com/company/transmountain)

"The Collision Regulations" of Canada Shipping Act 2001 can be found at: [http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.\\_c\\_1416](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C._c_1416)

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October 2019