

Why can't large vessels move out of the way?

The ports of NSW are busy and some may have more than 5,000 large vessel movements annually.

The following applies to large vessels when in our ports:

- ◆ they have little room to stop, turn or alter course within channels, their movements will be restricted because of their size and draft
- ◆ at times they will only be able to deviate to no more than 20 metres as they operate within the channels and this can be unsafe and dangerous as a large ship can take up to two nautical miles to stop or alter its course.



Visibility and line of sight

Visibility and line of sight are important factors which play a key role in avoiding collisions on the water with trading vessels.

From your position on the water you may have a clear view of the trading vessel. It is however, dangerous to assume that those on the trading vessel have a clear view of you. Do not cross close ahead of large vessels, the master may lose sight of you under the bows. If you can't see the ship's bridge, then the person in command of the ship probably can't see you.

It is also recommended that you maintain a distance of 60 metres from vessels at berth.



Further information on safe boating in busy ports is available at www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/bigships

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Info Line 13 12 56
www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

BIG SHIPS, SMALL BOATS

**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!**



Safety information for
boating in proximity to large vessels

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Responsible boating in working ports

The ports of New South Wales such as Sydney Harbour, Port Botany, Port Kembla and Newcastle are large commercial working harbours and popular waterways for small recreational vessels.

Sydney's ports alone handle over \$50 billion of international and domestic trade annually reflecting a remarkable contribution to the NSW economy. There are different types of large vessels visiting the ports such as bulk carriers, container ships, car carriers, oil tankers, ferries and charter boats. These ships need safe unobstructed access to our ports. On any given day there can be up to a dozen commercial trading vessel movements and hundreds of recreational boats, plus naval and charter vessels on the water.

Knowing your responsibilities when you are close to large vessels is essential for safety on the water. Understanding the shipping channels in busy harbours and ports will allow you to take the right course of action when you are near a large vessel.

All skippers and masters must be familiar with the Navigation (Collision) Regulations 1983 (available at www.maritime.nsw.gov.au).

The regulations contain further information regarding your responsibilities on the water near trading vessels. All skippers and masters should also be familiar with local regulations and laws.

Safety tips

Before entering the harbour/port you should check the following:

- ◆ know the commercial shipping channels used by trading vessels
- ◆ listen for Harbour Control safety broadcasts on VHF channel 13 in Sydney – this 'working channel' may be different in other ports, so check with local authorities
- ◆ check the weather forecast for the day
- ◆ make sure your boat is suitable for the conditions
- ◆ ensure you have a lifejacket for every person onboard
- ◆ know the wind and wave limits of your boat.

When you are out on busy working harbours or ports such as Sydney Harbour, Port Botany, Port Kembla or Newcastle remember:

- ◆ that overloading is dangerous and illegal
- ◆ to check that small children and those who cannot swim, the elderly or those with a medical condition are wearing a lifejacket
- ◆ to wear your lifejacket at times of 'heightened risk' such as when boating at night or when conditions get rough
- ◆ keep to a safe speed
- ◆ go easy on the drink - keep under 0.05.



Simple steps to stay safe near large vessels

- ◆ always keep a lookout for large vessels
- ◆ determine if the vessel is moving towards you or away from you
- ◆ always keep a safe distance away from a large vessel
- ◆ act early so you can move away from these large vessels and also make sure that they can clearly understand what you are doing
- ◆ always have your navigation lights on at night so other vessels can clearly see you
- ◆ familiarise yourself with the commercial shipping channels
- ◆ stay clear of the channels when trading vessels are entering or departing the ports
- ◆ be aware of areas of interaction (pressure and suction) in close vicinity of large vessels and keep clear. The pressure zones are on the bow and at the stern, the midships area will have a tendency to draw vessels together particularly at higher speeds
- ◆ be aware of wakes of large vessels, particularly when the large vessel is in relatively shallow water and moving at higher speeds.

