

Marine Notice No. 2 of 2008

Surfing or Broaching of Small Craft in a following sea

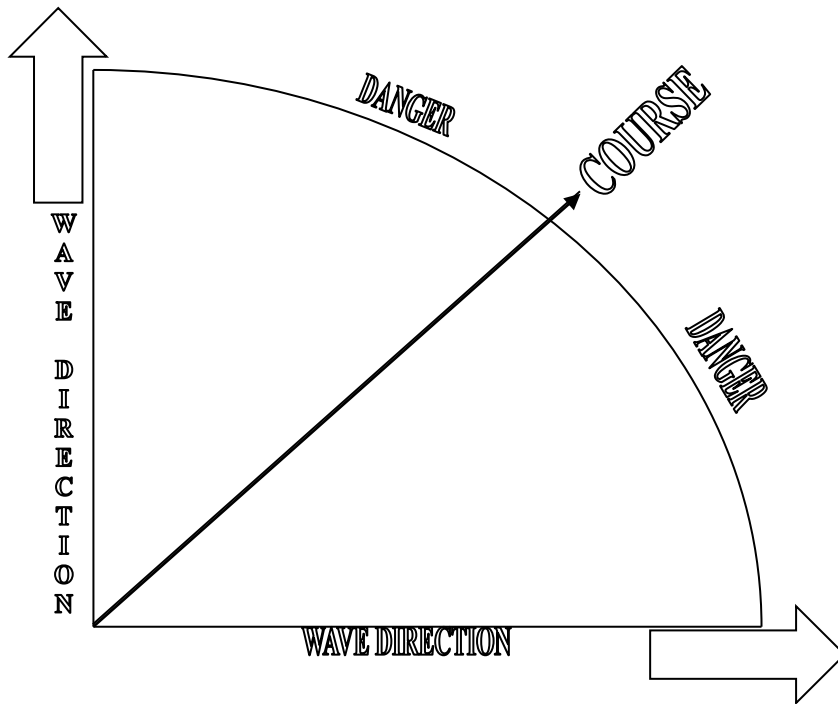
TO SKIPPERS, SURVEYORS, AUTHORISED AGENCIES, SAFETY OFFICERS, SAMS
APPOINTED SKIPPER EXAMINERS, ACCREDITED SMALL VESSEL TRAINING
INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Marine Notice No. 30 of 1998 is cancelled

Summary

This marine notice provides information to the small vessel sector on surfing or broaching of small vessels in a following sea and, precautions which may be taken to reduce the possibility of or prevent capsize.

1. These guidelines are intended to assist skippers understand the phenomena of broaching and are not a guarantee of safety in these conditions
2. Research has indicated that capsize of small vessels is the largest contributor to deaths in the South African maritime sector.
3. Following or quartering seas can best be described as conditions where the wave direction, relative to the vessel's course, is within 0-45° from the stern of the vessel, as shown below.
4. While operating under the conditions as shown below, the vessel is vulnerable to broaching and capsizing or being swamped.
5. The skipper must at all times be alert to the inherent danger when operating in following seas. He/she should be aware of the variation of engine speed and course changes required to maintain control of the vessel.
6. In order to ensure that the vessel remains buoyant at all times ("white water" severely reduces buoyancy) crew members must be seated as far aft as the stability of the vessel allows.
7. A constant lookout must be maintained astern; in darkness or poor visibility it may be necessary to delegate a crew member to face aft to assist the skipper.



8. These conditions are one of the reasons that wearing of a lifejacket or a buoyancy aid is compulsory. Skippers are reminded of their obligations in terms of regulation 7(2) of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations 2007*.

(2) *The skipper of a commercial small vessel must ensure that an approved buoyancy aid or lifejacket of the kind required by these Regulations is worn by—*

- (a) *every crew member performing work on deck at night;*
 - (b) *every crew member performing work that creates the risk of the person being lost overboard;*
 - (c) *every crew member whenever a vessel under 7 metres is being operated within 1 nautical mile from shore;*
 - (d) *every child under 12 years of age on deck at all times when the vessel is underway;*
 - (e) *any other person on board a vessel at such times as the skipper may direct;*
- and
- (f) *every person on board including the skipper whenever the vessel is launched or operated in the surf, or otherwise operates in rough sea or water conditions.*

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