



Lights and Shapes

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Introduction

A guide to IRPCS lights and shapes for vessels commonly seen around UK waters



Under Sail

Less than 20 metres in length

A tricolour light...



...or bicolour and stern lights



Sailing Vessel Under Power

Less than 20 metres in length

Light as a power driven vessel

Steaming light, bicolour and steering light

Do not use the tricolour with the steaming light!



Sailing Vessel Under Power

Motor sailing by day

Motoring cone



Power Driven Vessels

More than 12 metres in length

Steaming light, bicolour and stern light

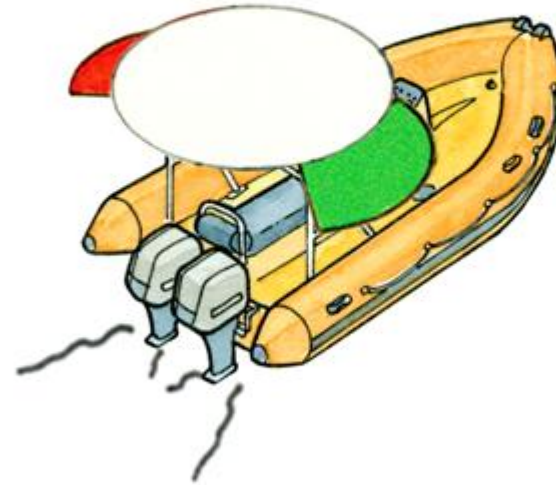
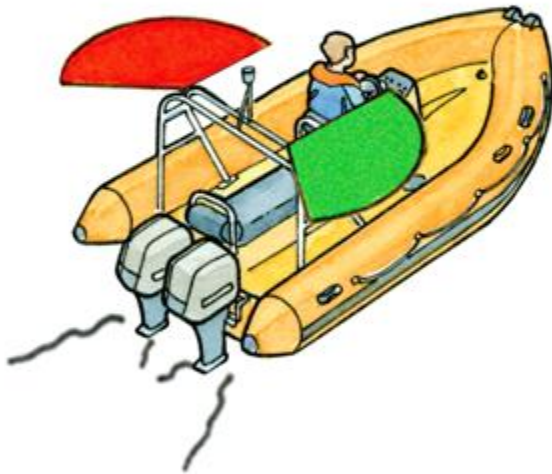


Power Driven Vessels

Less than 12 metres in length

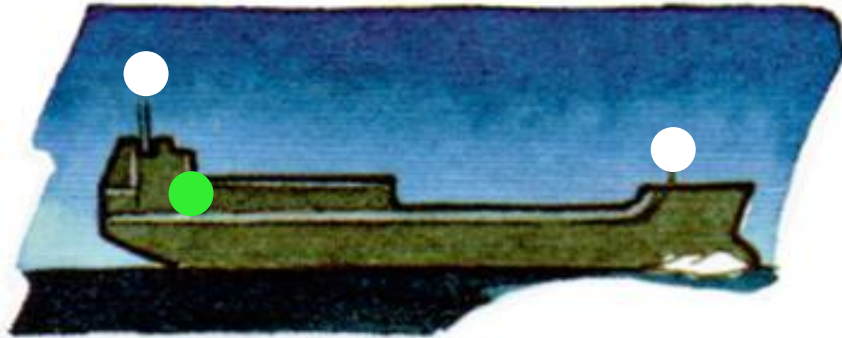
Side lights...

... and an all-round white light

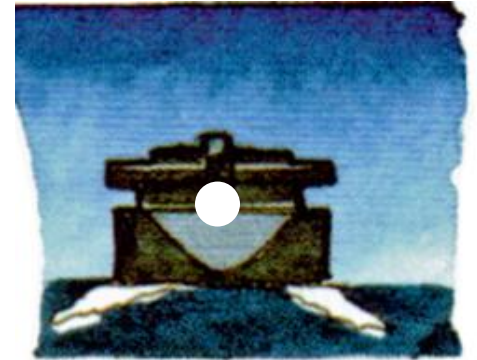


Large Ships

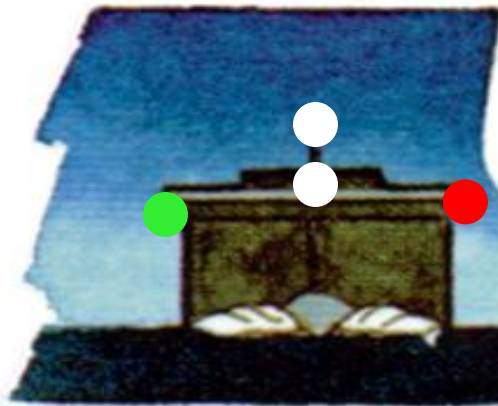
Large ships (over 50 metres) have two steaming lights



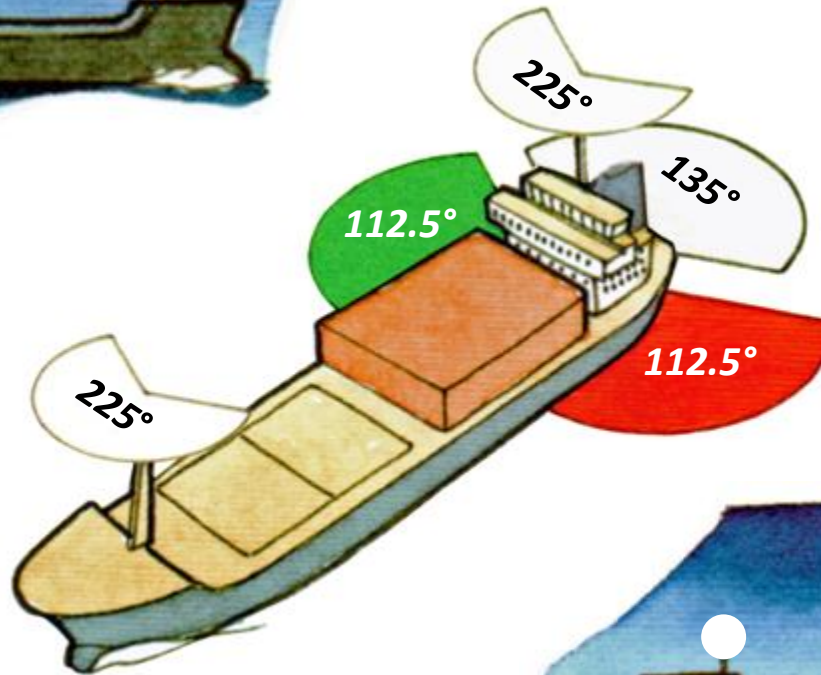
Starboard view



From astern

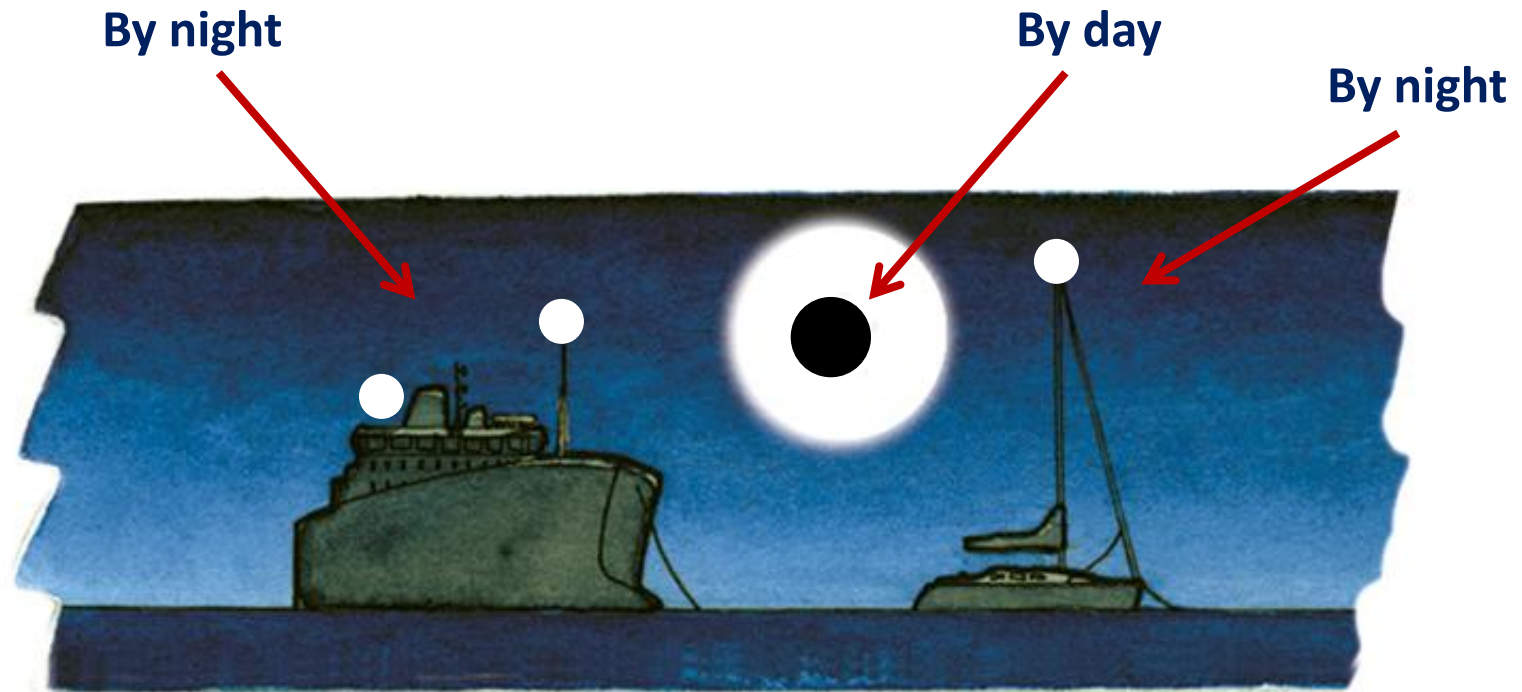


From ahead

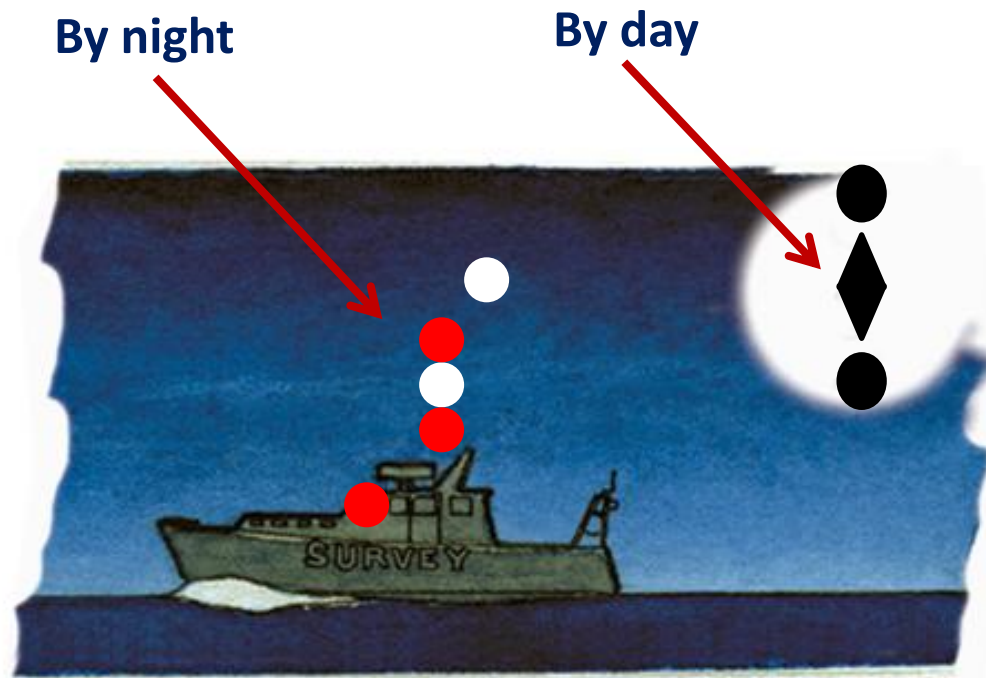


Port view

At Anchor

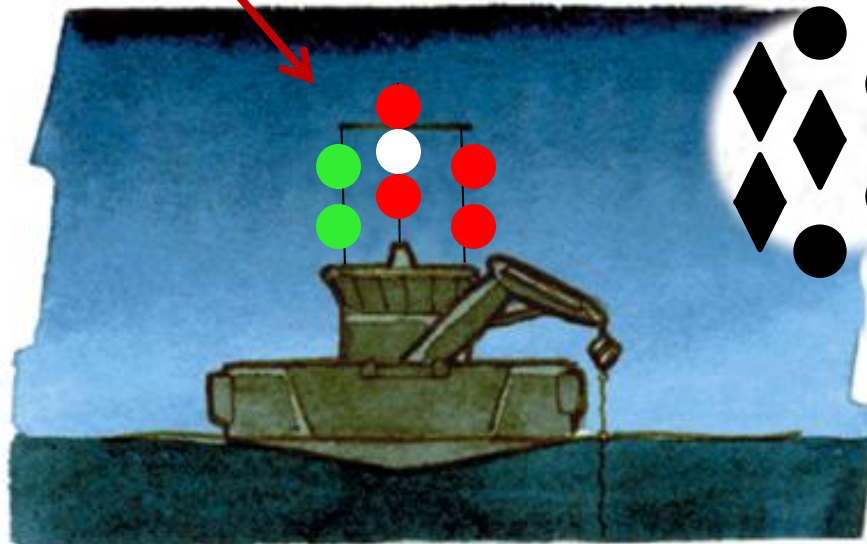


Restricted In Ability To Manoeuvre



Carrying Out Underwater Works

By night



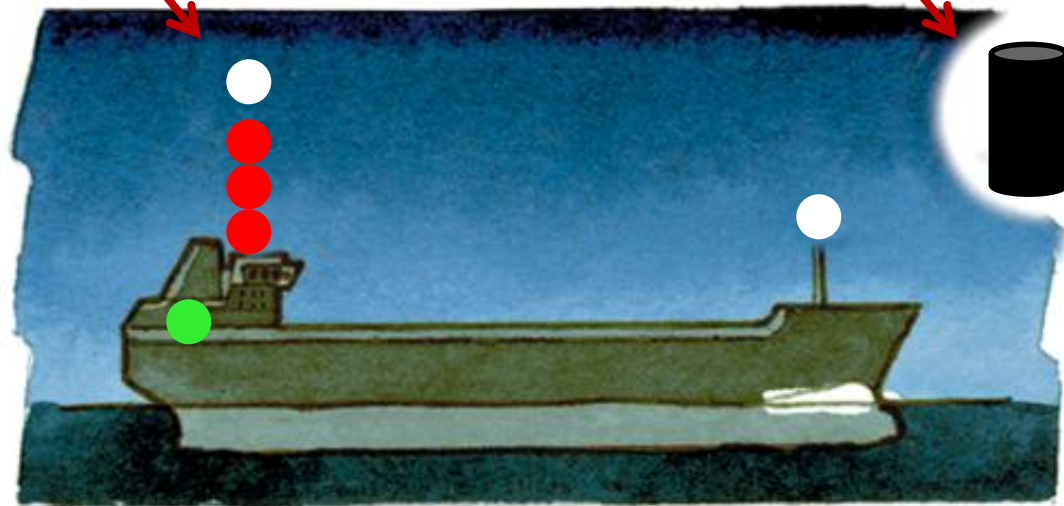
By day



Constrained By Draught

By night

By day



Trawling & Fishing

By night

By night

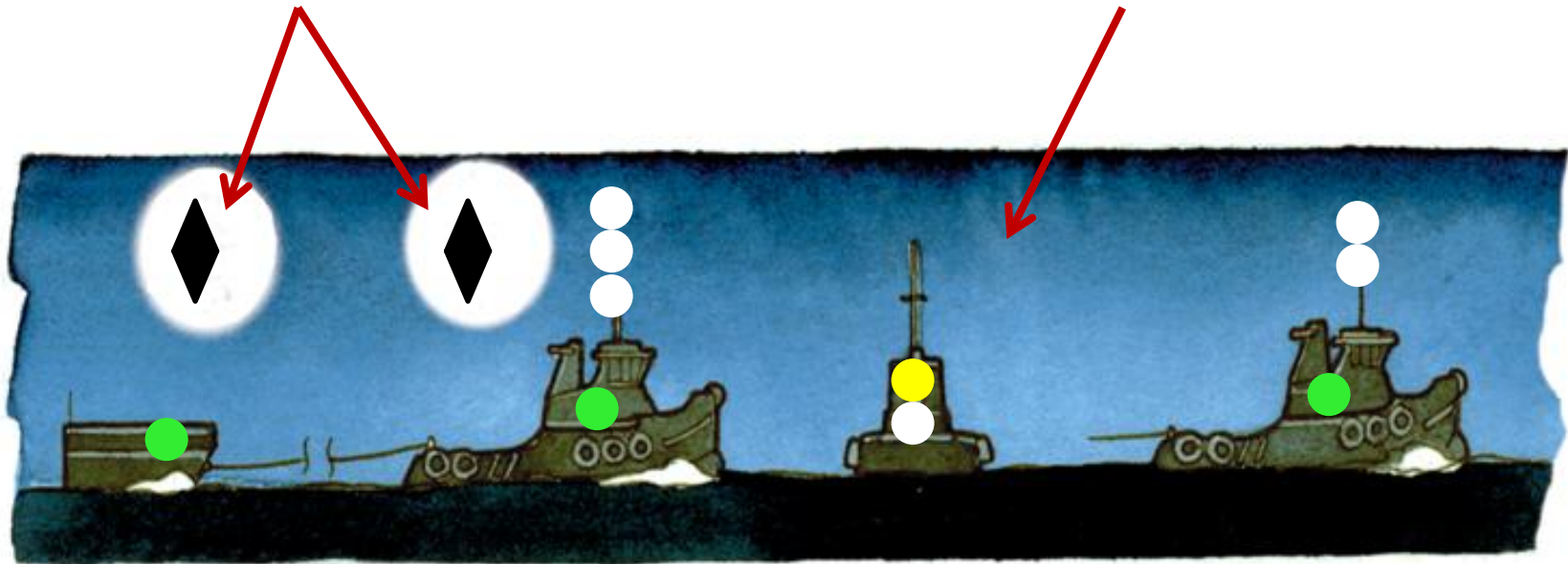
By day



Towing

By day (towing over 200 metres)

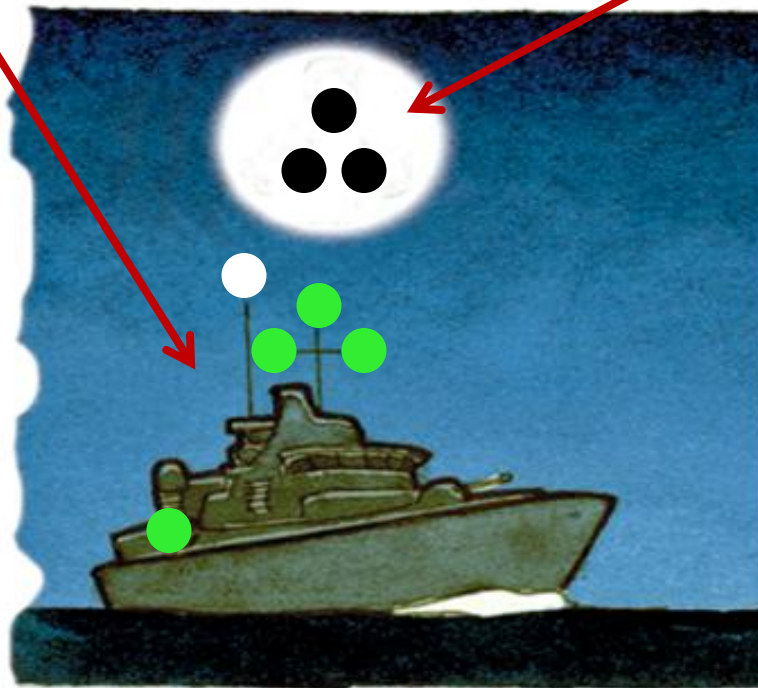
By night (towing under 200 metres)



Minesweeping

By night

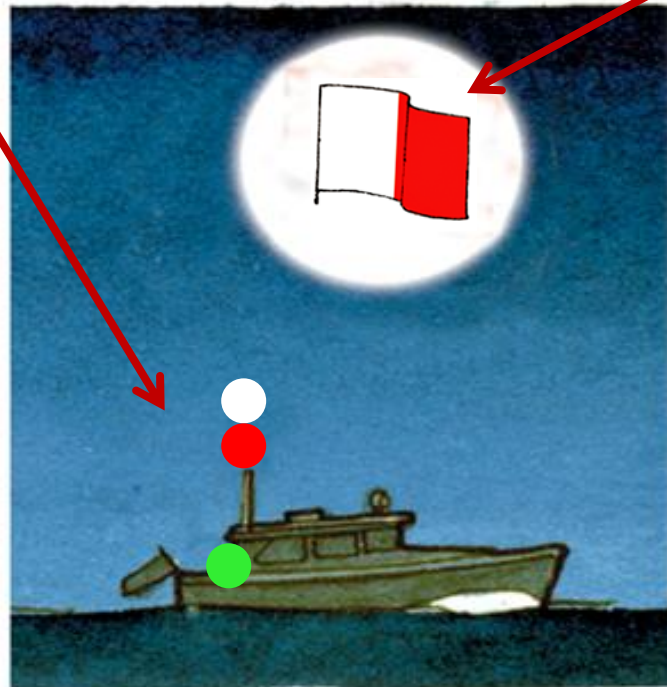
By day



Pilot Vessel On Duty

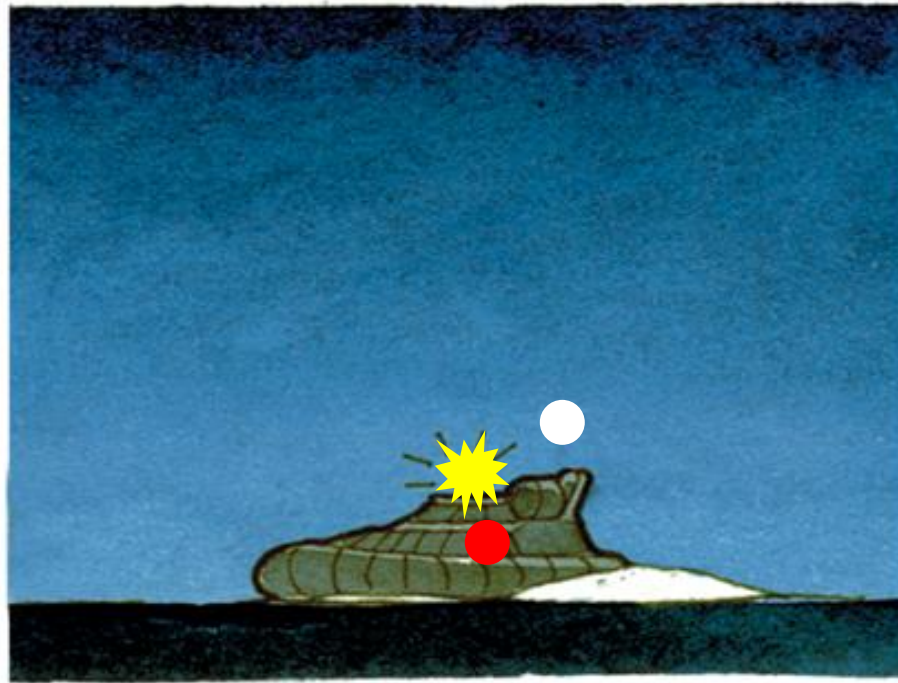
By night

By day



Air Cushioned Vessel

Day and night



Diving

By day



Further Reading



We highly recommend Tim Bartlett's
RYA Navigation Handbook (G6)

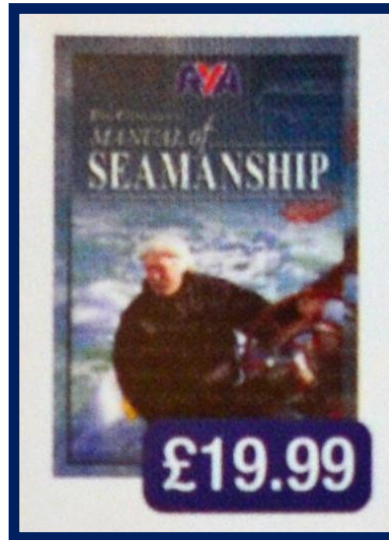
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Further Reading



We highly recommend Tom Cunliffe's
RYA Seamanship Handbook (G36)

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