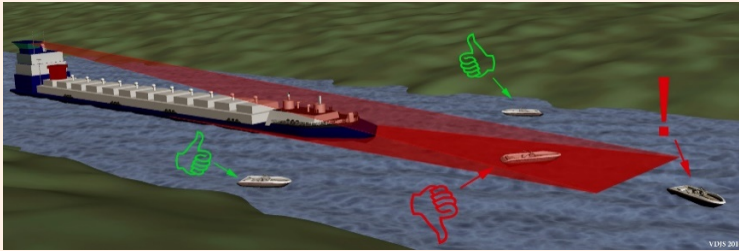


The recreation season is about to commence! During spring and summertime, everything that floats is found on the waters. This will require extra and even more consistent alertness from the professionals. In order to help you, a number of proactive measures are given.



PROACTIVE MEASURES

- All vessels have a **blind spot** without visual aids. Not only in front of the vessel, but also besides. However, your blind spot cannot be bigger than 350 meters. Therefore, make sure that you have clear sight using cameras.



- If one sunny day you are, for example, on the Fries- Groningse canals, it is guaranteed that you will be surrounded with recreational neighbors. Please keep in mind that they are not on the waters as often as you, they are less experienced and have no idea of what you see and of your speed. Therefore, **place a lookout** when you are at cluttered routes (see '[Varen doe je Samen! knooppunten](#)' only Dutch). It can save you a lot of misery.
 - If necessary, give a **signal of attention** with your horn. In dangerous situations, it can alert the person on the vessel, they may not hear you coming. When you do this, keep in mind that a sound like that can cause for a shock effect and may do something unexpected. Test the use of the horn before departure.
 - **Grant each other some space.** When passing, both small and large vessels need space. Be courteous and provide small vessel with space as well
 - In some cases, it can be sensible to **slow down** a bit temporarily.
- Many recreationists have **VHF** on board. Do not hesitate to use it. You might not get a response, but the person involved might have heard it. Use every possibility to reach each other.
 - Keep in mind that recreationists are not familiar with your signal in using the **blue sign**. Usually, recreationist should keep starboard (exceptions excluded). Try to point this out.
 - Whereas in some situations you would keep your propeller on in the lock, this is not desirable when sailing together with recreational sailors. This is because it is incredibly inconvenient for the recreational sailor. **The small vessel moves uncontrollably from starboard to port due to your propeller water.** This can cause a lot of unnecessary damage and anxiety. Make clear arrangements with the lock master about entering and leaving the lock and where to moor in the lock to avoid unsafe situations.
 - **Finally:** Act professional towards your fellow waterway users. Do not think "they will move aside" or "they must see me"! Show that you are the professional on the waterways and **set a good example.** Show your expertise and help the recreationist.

References/Sources:

[Varen doe je samen - English.](#)