

## SAFETY FLASH 25-113: COMMUNICATION WITH SEAGOING VESSELS

**Clear communication prevents surprises. Explain what you see, what you are going to do, and what you expect.**

### GOOD PRACTICE

- Communicate through the traffic control center where required.
- When making direct VHF contact with the seagoing vessel, use a language that both parties understand.
- It is important to know your location and clearly state your position.
- In border areas between two sectors, it can be practical to use both radios for monitoring.
- For unusual maneuvers, it is wise to report this on the block channel and to the vessel involved.
- Is your vessel sensitive to waves? Report this in time on the block channel and to the vessel.
- Have communication confirmed so that both parties are clear about the agreed-upon actions.



### BAD PRACTICE

- x Not communicating when the situation is unclear.
- x Informing your intentions too late.
- x Using the wrong radio channel or not listening in.
- x Giving limited answers ("okay") in radio communications about maneuvers without describing your own actions.
- x Discussing or expressing emotions via the VHF radio. The radio is for safety and information purposes only.



### ACTION QUESTIONS

- How do you communicate your position and intention briefly and clearly?
- When was the last time you simply said "okay," and what could you have phrased more clearly?
- What do you do when the situation feels unsafe or unclear?

