

Rules 9 & 5 Laws To Live By

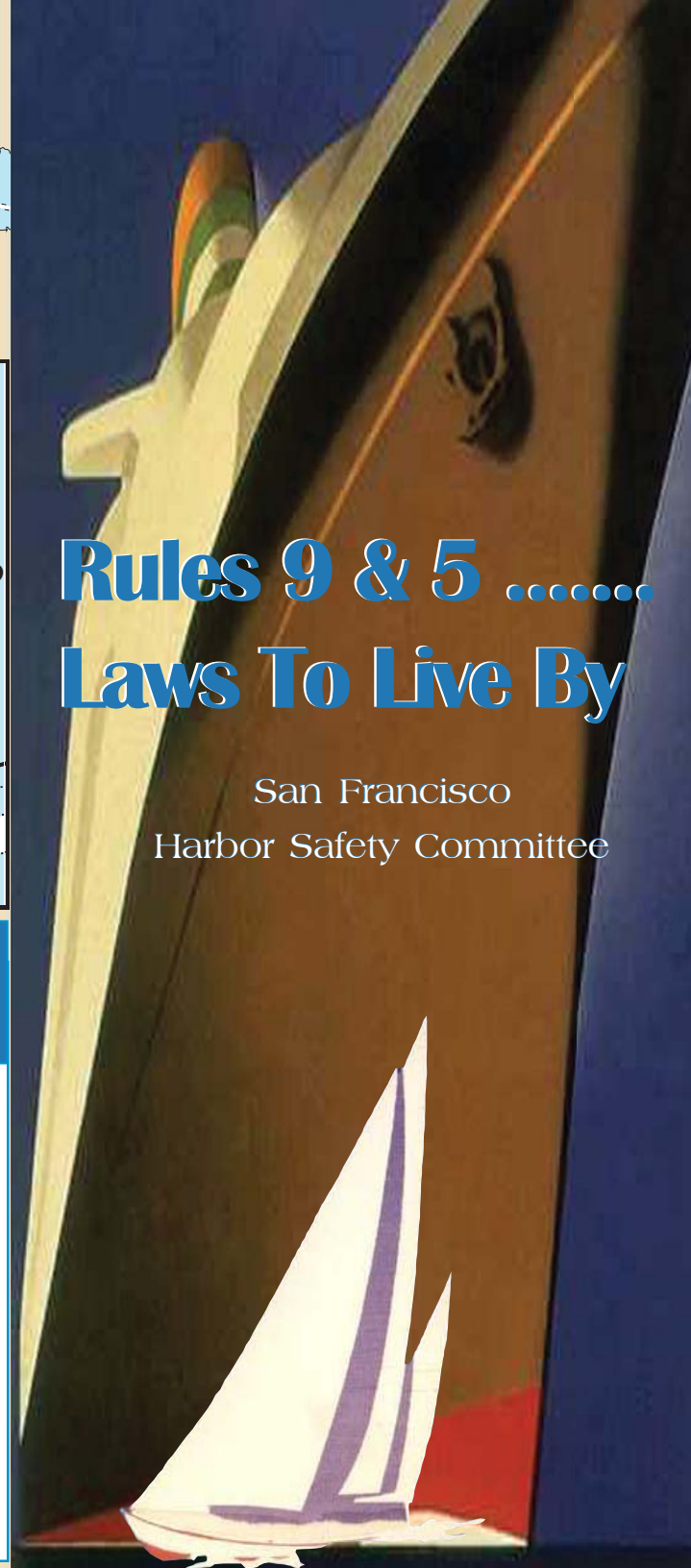
San Francisco
Harbor Safety Committee

The Captain of the Port designates the following areas (in white) where deep draft commercial and public vessels routinely operate to be "narrow channels or fairways", for the purpose of enforcing RULE 9 (please refer to map for location of sites).

- Golden Gate Traffic Lanes and Golden Gate Precautionary Area
- Central Bay Traffic Lanes and Central Bay Precautionary Area
- Oakland Harbor Bar Channel and Oakland Outer Harbor and Oakland Inner Harbor
- Alameda Naval Air Station Channel
- So. San Francisco Bay Channels and Redwood Creek
- North Ship Channel
- Southampton Shoal Channel
- Richmond Harbor Entrance Channel and Point Potrero Turn and Richmond Harbor Channel and Santa Fe Channel
- San Pablo Strait and Pinole Shoal Channel
- Carquinez Strait
- Mare Island Strait
- Suisun Bay Channels

Plus, areas not shown on map: New York Slough, Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, Sacramento and Stockton deep water ship channel. Information on these and other designated narrow channels can be found in Captain of the Port Public Advisory 05-95.

These maps are not intended for navigational use.





Rules 9 & 5.....Laws To Live By

Rule 9: Narrow Channels What it Means to You

Rule 9 of the International and Inland Navigational Rules of the Road requires that all vessels less than 20 meters (65 feet), vessels engaged in fishing and all sailboats shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if doing so impedes the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within that channel or fairway.

The term “shall not impede” means a small vessel must keep well clear of and not hinder or interfere with the transit of larger vessels.

Large vessels are not always able to see small vessels.

Large vessels lack the maneuverability of small vessels, and need a great deal of time and space to maneuver properly and to stop.

Rule 9 places the **obligation on you**, the small vessel operator, to avoid impeding the large vessel while operating in a deep draft channel or fairway.

Rule 9 is much more than smart and courteous boating--**it's the law** and violators are subject to civil penalty. Boaters are encouraged to report violations to the Captain of the Port (VHF CH 16 or phone 415-399-3547).

Know How To Navigate Safely

Don't underestimate the speed of large vessels. Allow ample time and space for a large vessel to see that you are moving out of its intended path. Make early and clear movements to indicate your intentions.

Monitor VHF Channel 14. It is an excellent way to determine the location and intended route of large vessels. Large vessels are required to use Channel 14 to communicate with Vessel Traffic Service (VTS).

Learn to use charts. Where possible, use shallower areas outside of deep draft channels as shown on charts. Most Bay waters are too shallow for large ships.

Be defensive. Assume that large vessels cannot see you. When necessary, use your radio (VHF CH 13) to communicate with large vessels.

When crossing a ship channel, do so quickly. Do not stop or anchor in the channel.

Know and obey the Rules of the Road. If you are unsure of the Rules, take a boating safety class from the Coast Guard Auxiliary (1-800-336-2628) or U.S. Power Squadrons (1-800-732-7545).

This pamphlet was created by the Prevention Through People Working Group of the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee. For additional copies of this pamphlet, please contact the Marine Exchange at (415) 441-7988. Visit the Marine Exchange web site at: <http://www.sfmex.org/>

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Rule 5: Look-out

What it means to you:

Rule 5 of the International and Inland Navigational Rules of the Road requires that:

"Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision."

In other words, watch where you're going!

Be aware of:

- What's in front of you
- What's beside you
- What's behind you

