
Safety of navigation - drifting

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Safety Alert is issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority to highlight the need for effective watchkeeping and the application of good seamanship whilst drifting. It is based on the initial findings of an ongoing investigation into a marine incident.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. A Bahamas registered cruise ship was drifting in deep water, 12 miles from land, awaiting permission to enter port. After several days of drifting and re-positioning, the vessel was involved in a collision with a sailing vessel. No one was hurt and there was no pollution.

3. Text

- 3.1. The investigation is ongoing, but attention is drawn to the following:
- A passage plan is required from berth to berth. When a vessel is forced to drift, geographical limits (a box) should be established as part of the plan
 - Minimum bridge manning must be maintained
 - Readiness of engines must be assessed and clearly communicated with all parties
- 3.2. Further, drifting vessels are reminded that they are required to comply with the provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea including (but not limited to):
- maintaining a proper look-out
 - assessing the risk of collision
 - taking action to avoid collision
 - having due regard to the observance of good seamanship

4. Validity

- 4.1. This Safety Alert is valid until further notice and may be updated.