



# Aquatic Consulting Services

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## Boating Tip #52: Memory Aids & Rhymes

Anyone who ever sat through a navigation class or spent time aboard a boat with experienced sailors, has certainly heard some of these common rhymes that help sailors remember information on weather and navigation.

### Red, right, returning

Under IALA System B (International Association of Lighthouse Authorities), this is a reminder to keep red lateral buoys or marks on the vessel's starboard (right) side when returning from the sea in the U.S. and North America. Note: IALA System A which is the opposite (green, right, returning) is used in Europe, Australia – and actually, in most of the rest of the world.

### Even red nuns carry odd green cans

Reminder that red lateral buoys have even numbers and pointed tops, and green buoys have odd numbers and flat tops.

### Identifying Lights

Red over red, the captain is dead  
Red, white, red, restrictions ahead  
Red, red, red, no clearance below  
Red over white, eating fish tonight  
Green over white, eating shrimp tonight  
White over red, the pilot's ahead  
Red over green, I'm a sailing machine  
Green, green, green  
Flashing blue, the law's got you  
Yellow over white, hawser's tight  
Yellow over yellow, I'm a tug pushing tow  
2 whites in a row, is a tug and a tow  
3 whites in a row, is a tug and long tow  
1 sternlight will show, when tug touches tow  
Flashing yellow, inland tug

## **Old & New Rods Catch Fish So Purchase Some OK**

Used to help determine vessel priority:

- O Overtaken
- N NUC (Not Under Command)
- R RAM (Restricted in Ability to Maneuver)
- C CBD (Constrained By Draft)
- F Commercial fishing vessels or trawlers
- S Sailboats
- P Power Driven Vessels
- S Seaplanes
- O Overtaking

## **East is least, West is best**

Helps the navigator to remember which scale to read on a triangle when finding course.

## **Correcting and uncorrecting the compass**

True Virgins Make Dull Company, Add Whiskey  
TVMDC +W, -E

Can Dead Men Vote Twice At Elections  
CDMVT +E, -W

## **Port wine is red**

Helps boaters remember that the red running light is on the port side of a boat.