

1. Watch out for the other guy. Assume you are invisible.

2. If you alter course to avoid hitting another boat, make one large, easily apparent move.
3. Best practice is to stay to the starboard side of a narrow channel (eg Belfast harbor) or out of it altogether. Be extra-aware of other boat traffic when you are in the channel (especially near the harbor boat ramp).
4. In a situation where two boats could collide:
 - Default is to pass port to port with an oncoming boat
 - Turn to starboard to avoid an imminent collision (unless the boat is clearly on your starboard side).
 - Steer clear of a vessel on your starboard side
 - Overtaking boat keep clear. (Overtaken boat maintain course and speed.)
 - Less maneuverable or active fishing boat has right-of-way (eg lobster boat, pogie netter, freighter)
5. If you are the boat being avoided, do not alter course or speed (or do steer a clearly evasive course).
6. Do not assume that the other boat a) sees you until you've received some confirmation, or b) knows or follows the rules of the road.
7. Display lights from sunset to sunrise. On a gig, 360-degree white light or a lantern, on the bow or ready to show to avoid collision. (In practice, if the gigs end up out after sunset we've put a lantern on the bow. The boats should be back before "twilight," when there is still some light to see by.)
8. One blast on the airhorn (have rowers block their ears) usually sufficiently alerts another boat that you are potentially in their path. Official signals (better) are:
 - One short blast – "I am altering my path to starboard"
 - Two short blasts – "I am altering my path to port"
 - Three short blasts – "I am reversing"
 - Continuous sound – "I am in distress."
9. Red Right Returning -- Leave red navigation markers to starboard (green to port) when returning to port from the open sea or when going upriver. These mark deeper water than needed by a gig, thus not honoring them can help avoid conflicts with bigger boats. However, be aware that they mark hazards.
 - In Belfast harbor,
 - Red nun #6 is off the fuel dock
 - Red nun #4 is about 1/3 of the way to the monument
 - Flashing red buoy #2A and flashing green buoy #3 are small buoys about 2/3 of the way to the monument
 - Red bell (flashing) #2 is by the monument
 - (note: red markers are even numbers, green are odd #s)
10. Radio Channels:
 - 16 – Coast Guard (and monitored by all boats). For emergency use only.
 - 9 – Harbor Master and hailing other non-commercial boats
 - 13 – Hail commercial ship.
 - "Over" = releasing talk button, "out" = done with conversation