

# Four ships puzzle

25° 50' S  
048° 07' W

05° 47' N  
35° 19' W

40° 36.5' N  
22° 53' E

41° 38' S  
170° 19' E

Distress none Urgency Safety	Distress none Urgency Safety	Distress none Urgency Safety	Distress none Urgency Safety
NUC adrift capsized derelict	NUC adrift capsized derelict	NUC adrift capsized derelict	NUC adrift capsized derelict
"midships" "hard-a-port" "meet her" "steady as she goes"			
Course Bearing Speed Draught	Course Bearing Speed Draught	Course Bearing Speed Draught	Course Bearing Speed Draught
veer out foul dredging dragging	veer out foul dredging dragging	veer out foul dredging dragging	veer out foul dredging dragging

Four helmsmen are on board four different ships in four different positions. Read the clues and find out where they are, which emergency message (if any) was sent, what happened during the previous voyage of each ship, what information the Officer of the Watch (OOV) asked for, and what is going on with each ship's anchor.

You can click on an option to change its colour and rule it out and use the drop-down menu to select the answer you believe is correct.

Note that "somewhere between" and "exactly between" are not the same thing. "Somewhere to the west/east" and "exactly to the west/east" are also different.

1. The ship that was moving uncontrollably by current, tide, or wind in its previous voyage, is in the southern hemisphere.
2. The vessel sinking after a collision is somewhere to the west of the ship where they let out a greater length of anchor cable.
3. The helmsman of the vessel that that was moving uncontrollably by current, tide, or wind in its previous voyage, was ordered to check the swing of the vessel's head in a turn.
4. The ship whose anchor moved involuntarily over the sea bottom is at 40° 36.5' N, 22° 53' E.
5. The ship that spotted a container floating in the sea is somewhere between the ship whose anchor was moved over the sea bottom to control its movement and the ship whose helmsman was ordered to hold the rudder in the fore and aft position, in that order.
6. The helmsman of the ship that was unable to manoeuvre as required by the COLREGS in its previous voyage, was ordered to steer a steady course on the compass heading indicated at the time of the order.
7. The ship whose OOV was told "Tug bearing 170° from you" is in the southern hemisphere.
8. The ship sinking after a collision is exactly to the west of the one whose helmsman was ordered to steer a steady course on the compass heading indicated at the time of the order.
9. The ship whose OOV was told "16 knots" is exactly to the east of the ship whose helmsman had to hold the rudder fully over to port.
10. The ship that spotted a container floating in the sea is somewhere between the ship whose OOV was told "86 metres" and the ship that was turned over in its previous voyage, in that order.
11. The ship whose helmsman was ordered to steer a steady course on the compass heading indicated at the time of the order is in the southern hemisphere.
12. The ship that was turned over in its previous voyage is somewhere between the ship that was moving uncontrollably by current, tide, or wind, and the ship that was unable to manoeuvre as required by the COLREGS, in that order.
13. At 25° 50' S, 048° 07' W is the vessel whose engines have broken down and is going to hit a rocky coast in about 3 hours.