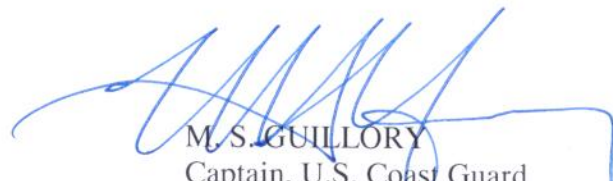




Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 06-01

Guidance Concerning Interactions Between Deep Draft Vessels and Seaplanes

1. The Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Southeast Alaska has received information regarding a near miss between a cruise ship and a seaplane in Tongass Narrows. Near miss situations are a common hazard for congested waterways like the Tongass Narrows. All Mariners, seaplane operators included, are reminded to monitor and maintain a radio watch on VHF Channels 13 and 16 while transiting in this area.
2. Operators of deep-draft and towing (tugs and barges) vessels are encouraged to conduct a security broadcast at least fifteen minutes prior to entering this area or departing an anchorage.
3. Operators of seaplanes should respond to all security broadcasts if their take-off, landing, or other operations may be effected by the transiting of deep-draft vessels. Operators of seaplanes are reminded that Inland Navigation Rule 18(d) states, "A seaplane on the water shall, in general, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation." These rules will be strictly enforced and violations may result in civil and/or criminal penalties.
4. All mariners who transit Tongass Narrows should review the *Tongass Narrows Voluntary Waterway Guide*, which has been recently updated, and is available at the Sector Juneau internet site along with the *Southeast Alaska Voluntary Waterway Guide*. These two documents outline a set of best practices that are intended to minimize waterway usage conflicts.
5. Questions or concerns regarding this matter should be referred to Sector Juneau at (907) 463-2450, Marine Safety Detachment Ketchikan at (907) 225-4496, or Marine Safety Detachment Sitka at (907) 966-5454. For further information and the documents referenced above, you can access the Sector Juneau internet site at:
<http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do?tabId=1&formCotp=30&cotpId=30>.


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