

VESSEL LIGHTING MEMORY AIDS

Identification Lights

The following all-around, vertically-arranged lights signify a particular function or limitation of the vessel displaying them. The colors are Red (R), Green (G), and White (W).

<u>Lights</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Memory Aid</u>
R/R	Not Under <i>Command</i> (NUC) (If aground combined with anchor lights)	"Red over Red; the captain is dead"
R/R/R	Maneuvering Constrained by Draft (Intl)	"Red-Red-Red; constrained by Red"
R/W/R	Restricted in Ability to Maneuver (RAM)	"Red-White-Red; RAM ahead"
R/G	Sailing Underway (optional at top of mast)	"Red over Green; a Sailing machine"
R/W	Engaged in Fishing (lines or nets)	"Red over White; Fishing tonight"
G/W	Engaged in Fishing (trawling)	"Green over White; Trawling tonight"
W/R	Pilot on Duty	"White over Red; Pilot ahead"
G/G/G	Engaged in Minesweeping	"Green-Green-Green; Danger Extreme"

The following lights are NOT all-around:

- White (W) is a masthead light showing ahead through 225 degrees
- Yellow(Y) is a towing light showing astern through 135 degrees

<u>Lights</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Memory Aid</u>
W/W	Towing (forward or aft mast)	"White over White; there's a Tow in sight"
W/W/W	Towing (forward or aft mast) - length of tow exceeds 200 m	"White-White-White; a LONG Tow in sight"
Y/W	Towing Astern (Intl & Inld)	"Yellow over White; the Tow's behind"
Y/Y	Towing alongside or pushing ahead	"Yellow over Yellow; the Tow's ahead or alongside" (Inland ONLY)

Remembered Best by Exception Vessels NOT showing mastheads:

- Pilot vessel ON duty
- Engaged in Fishing (Lines or Nets) – Any size
- Engaged in Fishing (Trawling) - < 50 m, (if \geq 50m must show after masthead light)
- Not Under Command (NUC)
- Restricted in Ability to Maneuver, not making way
- Sailing vessels under sail only (Note: lit as a Power Driven Vessel at night if operating machinery propulsion)
- Towing (*pushing or alongside*) above H. Long Bridge

Vessels showing ID only, underway but not making way:

- Engaged in Fishing (Lines or Nets) – Any size
 - * When making way they must show sidelights, stemlight.
- Not Under Command – Any size
 - * When making way they must show sidelights, stemlight.
- Engaged in Fishing (Trawling)
 - * When making way they must show sidelights, stemlight (plus aft masthead light(s) on \geq 50 m)
- Restricted in Ability to Maneuver
 - * When making way they must show sidelights, stemlight (plus masthead light(s))

Handout Prepared by Capt Rick Perri

Vessels showing yellow lights:

- Towing Astern
- Tow pushed or alongside (Inland Rules – special flashing: Yellow / 180-225 Deg / 50-70 fpm)
- *Submarine*
- *Air cushion vessel in non-displacement mode / Hovercraft*
- *Purse seiner in close proximity*
- *Public service (yellow alternates with red) / Commercial Assistance Towing (CAT)*
- *A spoil line*

Vessels showing Blue lights:

- Law enforcement vessel show a flashing blue light

Towing Generalities:

1. Tugs towing (whether astern, pushing ahead or alongside) show two vertical mastheads (forward or aft) (exception: three vertical mastheads when tow exceeds 200 m)
2. All ≥ 50 m power-driven vessels, including tugs, require second (after) masthead
3. When a tug's vertical mastheads are aft, she shows another masthead forward, regardless of length
4. Yellow towing light over white stem light (Y/W) shown ONLY when towing astern
5. Two vertical towing lights (Y/Y) are shown ONLY when pushing ahead or towing alongside (Inld)
6. Tow pushed ahead or alongside (Inland Rules – special flashing)
7. Composite Units (tug and tow functioning as a single vessel) are lit as a power-driven vessel.
- 8a. Barges towed astern are lit individually
- 8b. Barges pushed ahead are lit as a single unit
- 8c. Barges along one side are lit as a single unit
- 8d. Barges along both sides are lit as a single unit (Inland) or as separate units (Intl)
9. *Western Rivers (above Huey P. Long Bridge) when pushing ahead or alongside—tug mastheads off*

Dredge:

- 2 Green lights indicate safe side to pass
- 2 Red lights indicate obstructed side, do not pass on this side

Inland vs International:

- Tow pushing ahead: Y/Y (Inland) W (International)
- Barge being pushed ahead or along side: Special Flashing Yellow (Inland ONLY)
- Constrained by Draft (CBD) (International ONLY)

No White lights visible from front:

- Not Under Command (NUC)
- Sail Boat