

SMALL VESSELS' NAVIGATION AND RADAR TRAINING COURSE**Notice to Owners, Operators, Masters, Skippers and Officers of Merchant Ships and Fishing Vessels**

1. A number of Inquiries into the circumstances surrounding collisions or strandings of small vessels revealed that, in a number of instances, misuse of electronic aids to navigation, particularly radar, coupled with failure to follow safe watch keeping practices led directly to these accidents. It also became evident that lack of formal training both in basic navigational procedures and the safe use of aids to navigation was a contributory factor.
2. The Department of Transport, following the formal recommendation of the Court of Inquiry into the collision between the seine net fishing vessel "Strathmore" and the small coastal vessel "Glenrosa" that Masters should be in possession of a certificate of training in the use of radar (Merchant Shipping Notice M.1189 refers), concluded that a voluntary short course appropriate to the manning and trading patterns of small vessels would usefully complement the more formal and wider ranging courses in the use of radar and aids to navigation described in Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1159.
3. Completion of this short course, which covers the basic principles of coastal navigation, passage planning and the use of radar and other electronic aids to navigation commonly found on small vessels, is actively encouraged by the Department of Transport in conjunction with the Merchant Navy Training Board and the Sea Fish Industry Authority in order to promote more informed and safer watchkeeping practices on such vessels. The course is designed to be mainly practical and includes simulator based exercises representative of real situations and tailored wherever possible to local navigational circumstances. The exercises will be appropriate to the maturity and experience of the course participants and will seek to promote high standards of safe navigation and watchkeeping. The group discussion and analysis after every exercise is regarded as a significant contribution to achieving the aims of this course.
4. The course is open to Masters, Skippers and navigating officers of small vessels, and has a duration of not less than 36 hours. This period can be split into short sessions to suit local needs by arrangement with the training centre concerned; and flexible methods of training delivery are encouraged wherever this is possible.
5. A comparable short programme of training is proposed by the Sea Fish Industry Authority as part of a broad voluntary Certification structure for the catching sector of the UK Sea Fish Industry and the Department of Transport recognises this programme as equivalent to the course described in this Notice and hereby draws it to the attention of personnel on fishing vessels.
6. Further details regarding this course can be obtained from the colleges listed in the annex to this Notice.

Department of Transport
Marine Directorate
London WC1V 6LP
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ANNEX

Nautical Colleges offering the Small Vessels' Navigation and Radar Course:

Aberdeen	Aberdeen Technical College Gallowgate Aberdeen AB9 1DN
Cardiff	South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education School of Maritime Studies (Wales) Western Avenue Cardiff CF5 2TV
Fraserburgh	Banff and Buchan College of Further Education Argyll Road Fraserburgh Aberdeenshire AB4 5RF
Fleetwood	Blackpool and Fylde College Fleetwood Nautical Campus Broadwater Fleetwood FY7 8JZ
Glasgow	Glasgow College of Nautical Studies 21 Thistle Street Glasgow G5 9XB
Humberside	Humberside College of Higher Education Queen's Gardens Kingston-on-Hull HU13DH
Kilkeel	Kilkeel Technical College Greencastle Street Kilkeel Newry Co Down
Liverpool	South Mersey College Riversdale Campus Riversdale Road Liverpool L19 3QR
London	Merchant Navy College Greenhithe Kent DA9 9NY
Lowestoft	Lowestoft College Maritime Studies Department St Peter's Street Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 2NB
Plymouth	Plymouth Polytechnic Faculty of Maritime Studies Drake Circus Plymouth PL4 8AA
Southampton	The College of Maritime Studies Warsash Southampton SO3 6ZL
South Shields	South Tyneside College Department of Nautical Science St George's Avenue South Shields Tyne and Wear NE34 6ET