

Brunswick Harbor Navigational Guidelines

The Brunswick Bar Pilots, with the concurrence of various maritime interests, have established voluntary navigational safety guidelines for the Port of Brunswick. These guidelines are intended to minimize the risk of collision or grounding by vessels using the various waterways associated with the Port of Brunswick. They are not intended to supersede or contravene any law, regulation, or rule promulgated by competent authority.

(1) TRANSITING THE SIDNEY LANIER (U.S. ROUTE 17) BRIDGE

The advice and recommendations of the Brunswick Bar Pilots should be followed by mariners intending to transit the Sidney Lanier Bridge. Specifically:

- (a) Mariners should exercise extreme caution in making a right turn into the Turtle River from the East River because of shoaling reported on Brandy Point;
- (b) Certain large vessels departing the East River, regardless of the tide stage, may require the assistance of one or more tugs in shaping up for a transit of the Sidney Lanier Bridge. All mariners should comply with the recommendations of the pilots in this regard.

(2) TRANSITING ST. SIMONS SOUND AND THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

The convergence of the deep draft ship channel of St. Simons Sound and the IW can pose significant hazards to oceangoing ships and tug and tows transiting these waterways. To preclude unplanned encounters between vessels in these waterways, it is recommended that every transiting vessel initiate a SECURITE call on VHF-FM channel 13 at the following locations:

- (a) Inbound—upon passing the St. Simons Lighted Buoy “STS”;
- (b) Upon departing any dock in the Port of Brunswick;
- (c) Northbound on the IW - upon passing Jekyll Creek Light “19”;
- (d) Southbound on the IW - upon transiting the fixed bridge over the Mackay River at Lanier Island (ICW mile 674.5).

The context of the SECURITE call should include: The identity of the vessel, its destination, expected ETA to the aforementioned converging waterways, and any special information concerning its maneuverability.

(3) DOCKING OR UNDOCKING VESSELS AT COLONELS ISLAND

The Georgia Ports Authority facility on Colonels Island is a major terminal for automobile importation. This terminal has three berths, each parallel to the south bank of the South Brunswick River and is accessed from the Turtle River via a 0.9-mile channel approximately 400 feet in width. Vehicle carriers calling at this facility are brought up the full length of the channel stern first with tug assistance. Docking and undocking from either berth should not be attempted whenever the wind is from the northeast at 25 knots or greater.

(4) MEETING AND PASSING ON NARROW WATERWAYS

Oceangoing vessels over 400 feet LOA or drawing more than 20 feet and tug and tows with a combined tonnage of over 500 GRT should not meet or pass vessels of like size on the following narrow waterways in the Port of Brunswick area.

- (a) Cedar Hammock Range

- (b) Turtle River Lower Range
- (c) Colonels Island Terminal Access Channel
- (d) The St. Simons Outer Bar