

A close-up, artistic photograph of a ship's steering wheel and speedometer. The steering wheel is dark and metallic, with a polished chrome horn. The speedometer is visible in the lower half, showing a red arc with white markings for 20, 40, and 60. The background is blurred, showing other parts of the ship's interior and some warm, out-of-focus lights.

Speed reduction is an option.

Slowing down allows you to assess the situation and avoid a collision.

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Can an officer on bridge watch slow down the clock to better assess the risk of collision?

Yes. Reducing the speed of the vessel will give the Officer of the Watch (OOW) more time to think and act.

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Reducing the vessel's speed has a two fold advantage. It not only allows the OOW greater time to assess the situation and make a clear headed decision, but in the unfortunate case of a collision, the damage sustained and inflicted will be reduced.

OOWs should be encouraged to operate the telegraph when they feel it is needed, based on traffic density, visibility, environmental effects and other factors mentioned in Rule 6 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

We have published a number of collision case studies where excessive speed was a key contributor.

Case study: type: asset-hyperlink id: a2237a798c124d9987d3ec7cb2d4aebe

Case study: type: asset-hyperlink id: 214e46b62b294a858b1ef5b574ef7476

Case study: type: asset-hyperlink id: 9163e1b0a0304088844421d9288dc372

Insight: [A collision that should have been avoided](#)