### Purpose

To maintain sight of a person overboard while maneuvering and to recover the person safely as quickly as possible.

### Responsibilities

* Master – To bring the vessel back to the person safely and quickly.
* Owner/operator – Ensure vessel is equipped with equipment to retrieve both conscious and unconscious personnel. Drills must be conducted to practice using this equipment.
* Spotter – To keep the person in sight and provide assistance.
* All – Ensure you are familiar with operation of any lifesaving equipment.

### Procedure

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| **Step** | **Person Overboard - Safety Procedure** |
| **1.** | Whoever sees the victim fall overboard shouts, “man overboard!” at the top of their voice and points to the victim. |
| **2.** | The spotter(s) continues to point to the victim until the vessel reaches the victim. *It is vital that spotters do not take their eyes off the victim at any time and that they continue to point throughout.* |
| **3.** | Throw into the water readily available objects that the victim could use to keep afloat.  |
| **4.** | Master – Turn stern (propeller) away from the victim by turning the wheel towards the side of his/her departure and proceed in direction indicated by spotter.  |
| **5.** | Alert other vessels in the vicinity so that they can help and do not endanger the person.  |
| **6.** | Make a slow, powered approach into the wind, reducing to dead slow as you approach the victim.  |
| **7.** | Reduce engine power.  |
| **8.** | If there are significant swells, use the heaving line or lifebuoy to avoid the vessel coming down on the victim. |
| **9.** | Bring the victim onboard. |