

Radar Best Practice

Setting up an ARPA

WEST

When setting up an ARPA, remember to consider and work through all of the following points:

- ✓ Select speed input, either over the ground (ground stabilised) or through the water (sea stabilised), or input the speed manually
 - Note:** Sea stabilised with log input of the vessel's speed through the water in the fore and aft direction is recommended for collision avoidance as the true vectors of other vessels in this mode will provide a more accurate indication of their aspect
- ✓ When ground stabilisation is required consider using the Echo Reference function, utilising an identified fixed object
- ✓ Input the set and drift manually to determine speed over the ground, when required
- ✓ Set vectors to either true or relative
- ✓ Adjust vector length to the required timeframe
- ✓ Switch on relative or true trails as required and adjust trail time
- ✓ Switch on past position history dots and select the number of past positions and time interval
- ✓ Set the CPA (Closest Point of Approach) and TCPA (Time to Closest Point of Approach) alarm limits
- ✓ Set the BCR (Bow Crossing Range) and BCT (Bow Crossing Time) alarm limits
- ✓ Ensure ARPA alarms are switched on and the audible alarm will sound, as required
- ✓ Switch on and set guard zones, if required
- ✓ Switch on and define automatic target acquisition zones or areas, if required
- ✓ Set guard zone or target acquisition zone sensitivity
 - Note:** Guard zones and automatic target acquisition areas may not detect targets, particularly weak ones, when the gain, tune or clutter controls are incorrectly set
- ✓ Switch on target identification, if required
- ✓ Switch on automatic dropping of targets, if required
- ✓ Set cursor display information – latitude and longitude or range and bearing, or both
- ✓ Run integral test programmes to ensure the validity of the ARPA data
- ✓ Be familiar with the use of the ARPA trial function, and practice its use when the navigational situation allows

Important: In order to determine whether a close quarters situation is developing, or risk of collision exists, use all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

In association with

NORTHROP GRUMMAN
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Important: The above points are listed for guidance only. It is essential that you read the operating manuals for the ARPAs aboard your vessel and ensure that the set-up instructions specified by each manufacturer are followed.

