

COLREGS Demarcation Line

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The regulations in CFR Title 33 Part 80, <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/navigation-rules-amalgamated>, establish the lines of demarcation delineating those waters upon which you shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), and those water upon which you shall comply with the Inland Navigation Rules. The Inland Rules are similar to the COLREGS but contain specific provisions tailored to the unique conditions of US inland waterways, such as rivers, lakes, and bays. The differences are relatively minor with most applying to large ocean going vessels. Go here for the differences:

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/navRules/Handbook/Nav Rules Handbook Corrected 08-12-2024.pdf>

Here is an example of the demarcation line in Mass Bay, north of Boston:

Part 80.120 Cape Ann, MA to Marblehead Neck, MA.

(a) Except inside lines specifically described in this section, the 72 COLREGS shall apply on the harbors, bays and inlets on the east coast of Massachusetts from Halibut Point at Cape Ann to Marblehead Neck.

(b) A line drawn from Gloucester Harbor Breakwater Light to the twin towers charted in approximate position latitude $42^{\circ}35.1' N$. longitude $70^{\circ}41.6' W$. (c) A line drawn from the westernmost extremity of Gales Point to the easternmost extremity of House Island; thence to Bakers Island Light; thence to Marblehead Light. You can see the demarcation line below.

