Williamson Turn for Man Overboard

The Williamson Turn is a maneuver used to bring a ship or vessel under power back to a point it previously passed through, often used for man overboard recovery. It can be used in any state of visibility.

Initial Steps for Man Overboard

Person Observing Man Overboard
1. Throw lifebuoy or other floating markers overboard.
2. Gets someone else to notify the bridge while he/she keeps eyes on the man overboard for as long as possible.

Bridge
1. Once notified of man overboard, put rudder hard over on the side of the vessel the MOB is located to throw stern away from MOB.
2. After deviating from course about 60 degrees, shift rudder full to opposite side.
3. When heading about 20 degrees short of reciprocal course, put rudder amidships so vessel will return to reciprocal course.
4. Bring vessel upwind of the person. Stop the vessel with the person alongside, well forward of the propellers.