

You are inbound in a channel marked by a range. The range line is 309°T. You are steering 306°T and have the range in sight as shown. The range continues to open. What action should you take?

Note: The term “range continues to open” means that the lateral distance between the two range markers appears to increase.

A. Alter course to the right to 309°T or more to bring the range in line.

Incorrect: Having view of the range in the diagram you are to the right of the range line 309°T. If you alter course to the right to 309°T or more you will increase the distance to the right of the range line and not be able to close in on the range line.

B. Maintain course as it is normal for the range to open as you get close.

Incorrect: Having view of the range in the diagram you are to the right of the range line 309°T. You are currently steering 306°T and the range is continuing to open. This means you have a northerly set. By maintaining your current course you will continue to fall to the right of the range line because you are not accounting for a northerly set. Since you have not lined up on the range line, the range markers will not be vertically stacked, and the markers will continue to open, which is normal as you get closer to the range markers.

C. Alter course to the left until the range closes, then steer to the left of 306°T.

Correct: When you are steering 306°T as indicated in the stem of the question to try to close the range line to 309°T, the range continued to open. This indicates your vessel is experiencing a northerly set.

Therefore, you need to steer a course to the left of 306°T. By steering to the left of 306°T the cross track error can be reduced and line up on the range line and maintain the range line.

D. Alter course to the left to close the range, then alter course to 309°T

Incorrect: When you were steering 306°T as indicated in the stem of the question to try to close the range line to 309°T, the range continued to open. This indicates your vessel is experiencing a northerly set. Therefore, if you are able to reduce the cross track error and line up on the range line by altering your course to the left of 306°T, by altering course to 309°T you would not be able to maintain the range line and would once again cause the vessel to re-establish a northerly set be set to the right of the range line.

