

Day Skipper Passage Planning

Boat

Is the boat suitable for the passage

Crew

Plan passages within competence of the crew

Plan for possibility of bad weather.

Be aware of any time constraints.

Weather

Build up picture in advance.

Forecasts.

Wind strength and direction.

Sea state.

Update en route.

Route

Charts required and changeover points

Tracks, Distances, times, hazards, depths – update en route.

Clearing lines.

Separation schemes.

Waypoints – entered and checked

Ports of refuge.

Light list

Tides

When are they favourable.

Where and when are the gates.

Limits on entry and exits to ports.

Arrival times.

Pilotage

Port of departure

Port of arrival

Important marks and lights

Constraints en route

VHF Channels

Food requirements

Pre-prepared meals

Drinks and snacks

Watches

Awareness of fatigue

Requirement for watches.

Watch keeping duties.

Safety

Crew briefing – safety and passage plan

For the boat – Flares, Fire extinguishers in date.

Engine checked, spares, oil, fuel, batteries

Supplies

Food and Water

Fuel (inc outboard)

Gas

Spare batteries

Health

Crew - known conditions eg diabetes.

Ships Log

Legal document which will be used after any incident.

Standing orders.

Update log and position at least hourly.

Check positions independently.

Coastguard Safety Scheme CG 66

To help the coastguard, join the yacht and boat safety scheme CG 66.

Crew briefing see detailed list below

For the crew –

Clothing, First Aid, lifejackets, harnesses, liferaft,

Standing orders

VHF – Ch 16, Mayday

Personal safety

Seasickness – Awareness, medication, treatment

MOB

Engine start / stop

Fire

Flares

Gas

Heads

Seacocks

CREW BRIEFING

Safety

- Radio ➤ Procedures and operation in emergency / MAYDAY
- Engine ➤ Procedures for start and stop
- First Aid ➤ Location of kit
- Navigation Lights ➤ Use and battery conservation
- Navigating ➤ Method of navigating to a suitable port or refuge
- Fire fighting equipment ➤ Location and operation
- Gas cooker ➤ Switch on/off routine and gas alarms
- Bilge pumps ➤ Location and routine, gas build up
- Seacocks ➤ Location and operation
- Heads ➤ Correct operation. NB dry position at sea
- Moving about ➤ Boom and rope awareness
- Hatch discipline ➤ Fore hatches and windows to be shut at sea
- Lif jackets / Harnesses ➤ Lif jackets and Harnesses policy
- Cooking ➤ Burns and scalds prevention, wear oilskins.
- Friction burns/crush injuries ➤ Correct handling procedures
- EPIRBs ➤ Location and use
- Flares ➤ Location and use
- Searchlight ➤ Location (Day) and Ready Use Stowages
- Lookouts at Sea ➤ Need, reports
- Knives ➤ Yachts knife, personal knives
- Man Overboard procedure ➤ Heave to, engine, sails, practise asap
- Oscar / Lifesling ➤ Location and use
- Abandon Ship ➤ Liferaft brief

General

- Smoking ➤ Not below nor when handling sails.
- Oilskins ➤ Donning and wet areas
- Tidiness and Hygiene ➤ Consideration for others, feeding, personal gear
- Ensign and Burgee ➤ Burgee port signal halyard
- Noise ➤ Alongside other yachts, crew asleep, fog

Medical

- Ask crew members privately to inform skipper of any conditions requiring continuing medication.
- Alcohol ➤ Advise of risks to safety.
- Sunburn and Exposure ➤ Hazards and symptoms
- Seasickness ➤ Prevention and recognition

Deck

- Head sail ➤ Bending on, sheet leads, changing
- Mast ➤ Halyards, topping lifts etc
- Mainsail ➤ Reefing arrangements, clew outhaul
- Winches ➤ Operation, safety, security of handles
- Jackstay, secure points ➤ For clipping on
- Safety Equipment ➤ Life rafts, Dan buoys and lights, heaving lines
- Ropes and Fenders ➤ How to tie on and store

SOLAS Regulation 34 (Safety of Life At Sea)

These regulations were drawn up for Merchant Ships but apply in principle to pleasure craft (see below)

Safe navigation and avoidance of dangerous situations

Summary

- Voyage planning is required on all vessels which go to sea.
- Master to ensure plan is drawn up.
- Details of factors to take into account.
- Master's discretion in decision making not to be compromised

The voyage plan shall identify a route which:

- takes into account any relevant ships' routing systems
- ensures sufficient sea room for the safe passage of the ship throughout the voyage
- anticipates all known navigational hazards and adverse weather conditions; and
- takes into account the marine environmental protection measures that apply, and avoids, as far as possible, actions and activities which could cause damage to the environment

Small vessels and pleasure craft - Regulation 34 applies to all vessels.

For small vessels and pleasure craft the degree of voyage planning will be dependent upon the size of vessel, its crew and the length of the voyage. The MCA (Maritime & Coastguard Agency) expects all mariners to make a careful assessment of any proposed voyage taking into account all dangers to navigation, weather forecasts, tidal predictions and other relevant factors including the competence of the crew.

Components of a Voyage Plan

Appraise – all available information: weather, tide, boat, crew, route, hazards en route, passage times, aids to navigation

Plan – departure and arrival, constraints, critical times such as tide gates, pilotage plans, ports of refuge

Execute – make the passage according to the plan, taking into account the prevailing conditions.

Monitor – progress against the plan continuously, particularly weather forecast, tides and position