



Voyage and route planning

Step by Step

3 of 10

1. APPRAISAL

- Collect all the nautical publications, paper and electronical charts and other guides you need for preparing the plan
- Make sure they are all updated. If not, update them
- Check weather forecast (from several sources if possible)
- Make risk assessment
- Check what kind of other traffic there might be in the area
- Take into account your crew's experience, skills and condition
- Check if your boat characteristics and equipment are suitable for the planned voyage

2. PLANNING

- Plan the voyage from quay to quay
- Use paper charts and then move plan to plotters
- Draw legs, courses and safety limits to chart. Remember to check the depths
- Check the possible currents along the way and take them into account
- Mark no go areas
- Consider safe speed for every leg
- Mark up good position fixing targets for radar or visual navigation

- Mark up places to stay overnight if not sailing
- Mark up possible safe ports and anchorages and bunkering ports along the route
- Check used VHF channels in the area (VTS, ports authorities)
- Check emergency contact details

3. EXECUTION

- Estimate ETA to destination and other critical or important position along the way
- Check the need for possible reporting or customs etc.
- Plan the number of watchmen needed on different legs
- Plan the passing of critical points

4. MONITORING

- Follow the plan
- Fix your position regularly if you don't have a plotter
- Remember that good seamanship is always to fix your position at least with two different methods that are not depending on each other
- Always have a plan B for unexpected situation
- Remember a good seamanship and keep proper lookout
- check that your navigational equipment is