



Preparing for bad weather sailing

Step
by
Step
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PREPARATION FOR BAD WEATHER SAILING

- Close all openings
- Store and tie up all loose gear on deck and inside
- Avoid taking big waves from side
- Close the valves in the toilet and in the kitchen
- Reef or lower the sails. Change to storm sails if possible
- Prepare the jacklines from stern to bow for attaching the harnesses when operating on deck (side railings should not be used for jacklines)
- Check the weather forecasts and choose a safer route if possible
- Go to safe anchorage or port if possible
- Find out your position and estimate your food and fuel consumptions according to distance and time to next port of call
- Minimize the crew on deck
- Check bilges constantly
- Prepare the safety equipment, wear lifejackets and safety harnesses
- Test your radio equipment and appoint an individual for standing by the radio and being ready to make distress call if necessary
- Keep optimum speed since bad weather can significantly increase fuel consumption