

Questions for Skippers and Crew to Ask Before Departing:

- What (and how long ago) is your previous sailing experience?
- Are you taking any medication?
- Do you have any allergies?
- Are you a strong swimmer?
- Are you expecting any payment?
- Are you affected by seasickness?
- Will trip reports and voyage forms be filed?
- Who is the shore-based contact to monitor progress?
- What form will a passage plan take?
- Can you supply several references?
- Will drugs or alcohol be carried on board?
- Will firearms be carried?
- Will wet gear be provided?
- Will PFDs and tethers be provided?
- What is the protocol for the wearing of PFDs and tethers?
- Is there a grab bag on board? Can it be used for wallet, medications, spare glasses, etc.?
- Where is the storage space for clothes and wet gear?
- How comprehensive is the first aid kit?
- What is the watchkeeping plan?
- How skilled are you at recognizing vessel lights at night?
- How will the work and duties on board be divided?
- Is there any gear on board that the crew is not permitted to use?
- What restrictions are there on the crew in terms of what they can't do on board?
- Are men permitted to urinate over the side? (They shouldn't be.)
- What knots can you tie?
- What is your navigation skill level?
- What food do you like or dislike?
- How will the cooking arrangements work?
- What stores are on board and are any restricted?
- What is the state of the emergency equipment? Have the service periods expired?
- Will there be time before departure to familiarize with safety equipment and storm tactics?
- Will there be time before departure to familiarize with all the ship's gear and sails?
- What measures will be taken to prevent falling overboard?
- Will crew overboard retrieval be practiced before departure?
- How old is the rigging wire?
- Is the boat clean and tidy? What is the state of the bilge?
- Have likely weather patterns been considered?
- What are the weather parameters for a departure?

What is the motoring range of the boat and at what speed/RPM?
Discuss and plan for the big six--collision, fire, flooding, grounding, injury, and sickness.