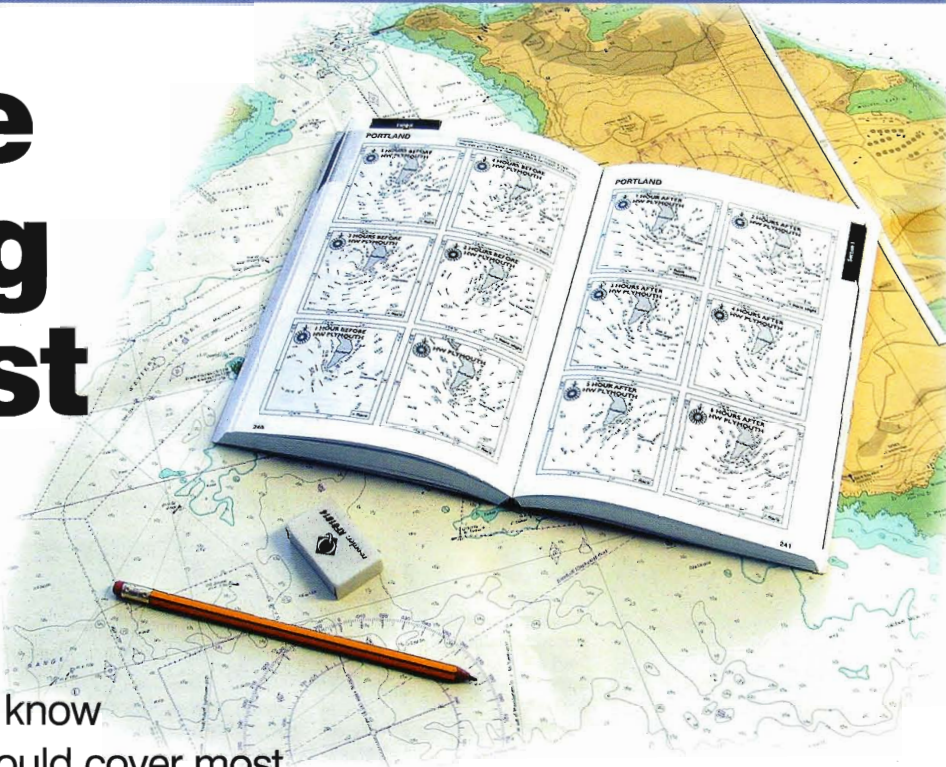


Passage Planning Checklist



There are many elements to passage planning and how much work you do depends on how long the journey is and how well you know the waters. This checklist should cover most eventualities for coastal and offshore passages says **Karen Williams**

CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Charts required:
 - small scale planning charts
 - large scale coastal charts
 - harbour charts
 - charts for places you might divert to
- Sufficient paper charts on board to back-up electronic chart system.
- All charts and publications corrected up-to-date.
- Relevant information extracted from nautical almanac and pilot books.

TIDES

- Tidal atlases marked up.
- Range – springs or neaps?
- Tidal height constraints checked at the ports of departure/destination/en route.
- Table(s) of tidal heights prepared.
- Best route identified to utilise fair tides and avoid foul tides.
- Tidal stream gates checked.
- ETAs at critical points noted.

METEOROLOGY

- Weather pattern for preceding period identified. Latest forecast obtained.
- Times and frequencies/VHF channels of weather bulletins noted.
- Navtex programmed.

NAVIGATIONAL STRATEGY

- Wind strategy identified, eg lee-bowing the tide, tacking up cones/corridors, making tack.
- Proposed route checked for dangers: rocks, wrecks, shoals, overfalls, firing ranges, bridges, overhead cables.
- Radar-conspicuous objects identified.
- Distance of each leg measured.
- Time for each leg estimated and minimum speed to get to critical point(s) calculated.
- Course to steer prepared for first leg, plus others as appropriate.
- Waypoints entered. Ranges and bearings between waypoints in GPS and on chart cross-checked.
- Position fixing:
 - most appropriate fixing method(s)
 - method of cross-checking position
 - frequency of fixing for each leg
- Pilotage plans prepared for departure and arrival plus possible intermediate ports.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

- Port(s) of refuge/safe anchorage(s) identified.
- Pre-planning sufficient to cope if short-handed.

CONTINGENCY PLANS (cont)

- Contingency reserves of water/stores onboard.
- Alternative mooring/waiting area identified.

BOAT AND CREW MANAGEMENT

- Crew briefed, including safety briefing. Responsibilities delegated.
- All necessary safety equipment present and working/in-date (see RYA booklet C8).
- Food, water, fuel, gas, spares, other stores adequate for proposed journey.
- Passage plan lodged with Coastguard and shoreside contact.
- Legal requirements for going foreign – passports, certificates of competency, E111s, currency, ship's papers, customs, immigration, health clearance, holding tanks, foreign charts/pilot books (inland waters) on board.
- Watch rota prepared.

OTHER

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