

Coastal Navigation for Small Boats

The aim of this course is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge required to safely navigate a boat by day and by night in coastal waters with which they are familiar.

This course is intended as preparation for;

- Intermediate/ Advanced Powerboat Certificate
- Advanced Small Boat Sailing Scheme Modules (Dinghy, Keelboat, Catamaran)
- General interest and skill building

Previous Experience

It is recommended that participants have one of the below practical certificates, however this course may be taken as a standalone module by those with a particular interest in this area.

- National Powerboat Certificate
- Improving Skills Certificate
- Competent Crew Certificate
- Helmsman Certificate

Time Commitment

This course must consist of a minimum of 8-hours contact time.

The length of the course may be extended where it suits, or is necessary, for participants to take a more relaxed approach to the programme.

Type of Boat

The course is entirely shorebased.

Evaluation

There is no assessment for this course.

Participants attending the entire course and who have demonstrated an understanding of the principals taught may receive a certificate of completion.



LEARNING OUTCOMES | Coastal Navigation for Small Boats



Safety

- Be able to describe when and how to summon assistance.
- Be able to describe how to manage a medical emergency afloat.
- Be able to describe causes, symptoms & remedies for;
 - ∞ Hypothermia
 - ∞ Sea sickness
 - ∞ Sun stroke
 - ∞ Dehydration



Chart Work

- Have demonstrated that you can;
 - ∞ Orientate a chart or map using topographical features, navigation marks and / or a compass.
 - ∞ Identify features, including hazards, from a chart.
 - ∞ Identify your position on the chart.
 - ∞ Identify distances from the chart and accurately predict expected progress
 - ∞ Describe the effects of compass deviation and variation.
 - ∞ Use transits to fix position and hold a course.
 - ∞ Plot a course to steer, taking account of the effects of wind & current



Coastal Knowledge

- Be able to describe the effect tides can have on your activities.
- Be able to identify relevant tidal information on charts and in almanacs.
- Be able to calculate tidal heights and rates of flow for any port and apply these when planning activities



Passage Planning

- Have devised passage / pilotage plans for;
 - ∞ A coastal passage by day
 - ∞ A coastal passage by night
 - ∞ entering into and departing from a harbour.
- Be able to identify where to obtain the information needed to devise a passage plan.
- Be able to programme a passage plan into a GPS set.
- Be able to accurately predict how much fuel you will need



Buoyage

- The principal day marks used in IALA A buoyage system and describe their significance.
- Be able to identify these buoys at night.



Sailing Knowledge

- Be able to identify the type, aspect and behaviour of vessels by day and by night from navigation lights and day shapes.
- Be able to identify the correct navigation lights and day shapes to use on small boats.
- Be able to use and understand manoeuvring (sound) signals.



Electronic Aids

- Be able to describe the principal features of, and considerations to be made, when using the following equipment to navigate by day and by night.
 - ∞ GPS
 - ∞ Electronic Chart plotter
 - ∞ Radar
 - ∞ Depth sounder
 - ∞ Compass



Weather

- Be able to identify common weather conditions and describe how they may affect your activities afloat.
- Be able to identify sources of weather forecasts
- Be able to interpret the forecast with regard to planned activities.
- Be able to explain the significance of commonly used terms in marine forecasts.
- Be able to identify the significance to powerboaters of common weather patterns illustrated on synoptic chart



What Next...

I can describe how to continue sailing, record progress in my logbook and try another SBSS Advanced Module or towards the National Cruising Scheme for more adventures afloat.



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