



Voyage and route planning

**Step
by
Step**
3 of 10

1. APPRAISAL

Collect all the nautical publications, paper and electronic 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

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

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

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 working properly all the time