

Passage Plan

The key to any successful voyage, whether a short fishing trip to a local bay or a leisurely cruise along the French coast, is not just what you do while on board – it's also what you do beforehand while still on dry land.

The tools used for passage planning may have changed in recent years, especially with the introduction of chart plotters and GPS, but the raison d'être for such a plan remains the same – the safety of the boat and its crew while at sea. Prudent skippers have always planned their trips but now it is a mandatory requirement under the terms of SOLAS, the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea.

The code divides effective passage planning into four sections – Assessment (the gathering of all the information relevant to the voyage), Planning (the preparation of the passage plan), Execution (the carrying out of the plan) and Monitoring (checking that the plan is working and making any changes that become necessary).

Photocopy this page and use the form to make a passage plan for your own trips...

DATE

TIME OF DEPARTURE

PORT OF DEPARTURE

DESTINATION

ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL

PASSENGERS ON BOARD

INTENDED ROUTE! (summary of intended route to be plotted on the appropriate charts (aided by navigational equipment such as GPS units or chart plotters))

RELEVANT COURSES (noting tidal streams, depths, hazards, congested areas, ETA, etc)

CONTINGENCY PLAN (should weather or other conditions change. For example, if a crew member was to suffer from seasickness, is there an alternative port to head for to shorten the trip?)

Channel Islands Shipping Forecast

For the area bounded by latitude 50N, the French coast between Cap de la Hague and Ile de Brehat and longitude 3W.

Issued by the Jersey Meteorological Department at.....

for the period ending.....

GENERAL SITUATION

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FORECAST FROM.....UNTIL.....

WIND:

SEA STATE:

WEATHER:

VISIBILITY:

OUTLOOK FROM..... UNTIL.....

WIND:

SEA STATE:

WEATHER:

VISIBILITY:

WEATHER REPORTS FOR COASTAL STATIONS...

Jersey Airport

Guernsey Airport

Alderney Airport

Cap de la Hague

Cherbourg Airport

Dinard Airport Auto

Portland

Channel Light Vessel Auto