



advantage  
boating 

## Section VI: Duties of the Skipper & Crew

# Lesson Outline



- Lesson Objectives
- Introduction
- Responsibilities of skipper
- Responsibilities of crew
- Summary
- Quiz

# Lesson Objectives



- In this lesson you will learn more about the duties and responsibilities of both the skipper and crew.

# Introduction



- It is important to be aware of the responsibilities of the skipper and crew to make your experience aboard the vessel a pleasant one!
- Like any great team, communication is key among the skipper and crew.
- So let's begin!

# Responsibilities of Skipper



- Above all else, the skipper is responsible for the safety of his crew and the safe operation of the vessel.
- A good skipper possesses good leadership skills and interpersonal skills to communicate with and give orders to the crew.
- If you see a distress signal or another boater in need of assistance, the law requires you to come to the aid of the other boater as long as you can do so without risking your life or the safety of your boat.

# Skipper – Before Leaving Dock



- In preparation for leaving the dock, the skipper should be safety aware and prepare accordingly by doing the following:
  - Make sure your safety equipment is in good working order and stowed in the proper location.
  - Ensure your crew knows where safety equipment is located and how to use it.
  - Get a marine forecast before leaving & monitor.
  - Do a pre-trip checkout (review charts, tide table, itinerary, check boat systems including thru-hulls).

# Other Skipper Functions



- To get crew to assist with the safe handling of vessel and provide them with the skills to safely help out.
- To be able to navigate vessel and be aware of navigational hazards.
- To provide a good standard of care for those aboard including making crew aware of any potential sources of danger on the vessel.
- To make all final decisions regarding the safe care of the boat and the well being of the crew.

# Skipper – Don't Become a Statistic



- The biggest contributing factors in reported boating incidents usually involve 1 of the following factors:
  - Lack of judgement like not wearing a PFD in adverse conditions
  - Alcohol
  - Excessive speed
  - Lack of familiarity with vessel (or insufficient knowledge or skills)
- Be responsible & knowledgeable!



# Responsibilities of Crew



- The crew's responsibility is to assist the skipper in the safe operation of the vessel.
- A good crew member that can assist with duties onboard will make the sailing experience more fun, relaxed and safer.



- There are many ways for your crew to assist onboard including but not limited to:
  - Putting away dock lines and other boat equipment
  - Take a turn at the helm
  - Tending sheets
  - Helping out with anchoring the boat
  - Sharing with cooking duties
  - Assisting with the navigation
  - Assisting in emergency situations

# Summary



- By knowing about skipper and crew responsibilities you can be better prepared to operate your vessel safely and keep all those aboard safe that join you on your next adventure, whether for a leisurely afternoon sail in the bay or a more challenging sail across the ocean.

# Let's practice!



- Complete the following quiz to test your knowledge about skipper and crew responsibilities.



- What are the four factors that often contribute to boat incidents?
- Name four things as a Skipper you are responsible for completing before you leave the dock.
- Name three ways your crew can assist you.
- As a Skipper, if you see a distress signal or a boat in trouble what are your legal obligations?
- Name four main responsibilities of a Skipper.