



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE WHITSUNDAY

Module : Autopilot Use
Type: SOP
Version: 1
Date: 16/1/21

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) Autopilot Use

1. Introduction

This SOP describes the procedures for safe operation of the Autopilot function on VMR1. It is the responsibility of every crew member to follow this procedure.

2. Reference

VMR Whitsunday – Risk Assessment 10 January 2021

Detailed Procedures

- Do not use the autopilot within 1/2 NM of reefs or land.
- Consider proximity and amount of nearby traffic before engaging autopilot.
- The engagement of the autopilot must be done by the skipper, or by the helm person after being given the skipper's specific approval to do so.
- Ensure the vessel is visible on the plotter and that the range is set to the appropriate scale to show any close surrounding area.
- Senior Crew/Lookout should advise skipper of any problems.
- Helm not to be left unattended.
- Person attending helm to be familiar with disengagement procedures.
- Use all available means to monitor vessel position and traffic.

3. Summary

If we all follow these guidelines we will be less likely to have problems while operating under autopilot.

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