



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE WHITSUNDAY

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) SAFE NAVIGATING NEAR REEF

1. Introduction

This SOP describes the procedures to safely navigate in close proximity to reefs / shoreline. It is the responsibility of all skippers & crew to follow this procedure.

2. Reference

VMR Training – Risk Assessment 16 June 2013.

3. Detailed Procedures

- When navigating near reefs/shoreline we need to use all available means to safely navigate.
- Paper charts must be used, in conjunction with steering compass to check GPS information.
- When navigating within half a nautical mile of reef/shoreline, GPS is to be used in the SHIPS HEADS UP mode. This will avoid confusion, particularly in poor visibility.
- Depth sounder & Radar are to be used.
- We can also use local knowledge to our advantage.
- A safe speed must be maintained
- Use of the upper helm is recommended for better visibility of the reef.

4. Summary

If we all follow these guidelines we will be less likely to have groundings.

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President

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