

## CHECKLIST: PASSAGE PLANNING

- General **weather limitations** for the passage: e.g. lee shore of a harbour entrance.
- Weather forecast:** On the day & a few days before to establish pattern.
- HW times:** For reference ports for tidal stream atlas & charts.
- Tidal stream atlas:** Marked up with time on each map to show when there will be the maximum advantage (particularly important on coastal passages).
- Range of tide:** To calculate tidal stream rates.
- HW & LW times & height:** For all secondary ports.
- Possible **entry & exit times** for ports & harbours. (Consider tidal height & tidal stream, daylight, bridge heights, bridge or lock opening times & any local regulations, as well as availability of fuel & other requirements.)
- Charts:** Check they are up to date & available for the overall passage & detailed charts for ports & near hazards such as sandbanks.
- Length & nature** of the passage: Consider if it is suitable for vessel & crew, including the skipper!
- Hazards:** Note: e.g. Traffic Separation Schemes, shallow areas, a tidal race or precautionary area.
- Contingency plan:** Look for alternative ports or anchorages if the weather deteriorates or if there is any other reason not to complete the passage. Consider shelter, facilities & when entry is possible.
- Information left ashore:** Details of passage & how to contact Coastguard if vessel is overdue. Ideally the boat should have a CG66 & the RYA SafeTrx App is a useful addition to that.