

Marine Rescue Memory Jogger – Offshore Voyages – Voyage Plans.

As most are aware, Marine Rescue NSW offers a FREE vessel tracking and safety watch system for recreational and some commercial vessels transiting along the NSW coast.

Logging on for offshore tracking is a simple exercise that can be both a boat and lifesaver if things don't go right somewhere along the voyage.

When departing port you can simply radio in to the nearest MR radio base and provide your vessel, crew and voyage plan details via the VHF radio, you can also phone a base and complete the information transfer OR you can complete a Voyage Plan sheet and fax or email to the base at your departure port.

If you complete a Voyage Plan, as you leave port it is simply activated by a short radio call and all of the personal details that are held confidentially from your submitted plan are put into action. The only thing that is required of you on departure is to provide an estimate of the expected transit time at which you will either report in your position or reach a journey break port.

Marine Rescue has an integrated online vessel monitoring system that automatically displays your plans and intentions to bases up or down the coast along with your reporting times and locations, ETA and other details. The Marine Rescue base at your intended arrival port will be expecting you, they will have all of your details and your progress will be monitored at radio skeds along your route.

If you do not radio in at your intended reporting time, MR bases will give you some leeway and then try to contact you, simply to confirm your wellbeing as we know that time flies when you're out there having a relaxing time.

Should something untoward occur, we will use the position, course and speed provided at your last sked to do a DR on your likely position and, if all attempts to make contact fail, respond our SAR vessels to the most likely vessel location.

It is also simple to reschedule arrival times if you are doing better or worse than expected in your plan, just radio in and let us know the revised ETA. Except for two small locations (Seal Rocks and between Coffs Harbour and Woolli) our VHF communications systems have complete coastal coverage.

So, if you're going to do an ocean voyage, please feel free to log on with Marine Rescue at any one of our 16 coordination (SARcc) bases along the NSW coast or Marine Rescue Sydney (24/7 operations) if you're leaving from Sydney.

To retain your privacy, it is a good idea to develop a Voyage Plan and email to base.sydney@marinerescuensw.com.au prior to your departure and then it's a simple matter of initiating the plan on departure and updating your expected reporting and arrival times.

A copy of the standard Voyage Plan is provided below for your information; these are also available from Marine Rescue bases or online at NSW Maritime.

Don Alexander

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MRNSW - Volunteers serving the safety of the boating community of NSW

A separate Voyage Plan sheet is needed for each leg of the voyage as you are automatically logged off when you enter port and break your voyage. Voyage Plans can be changed at your discretion at any time during a voyage if you have a change of intentions.

VOYAGE PLAN

<i>Please fill in the following details. Those marked in bold are compulsory fields.</i>			
Vessel Name:			
Registration Number:		State:	
Callsign (If Applicable)			
MMSI (If Applicable):			
Vessel Type & Make:		Length:	
Hull Colour:			
Superstructure Colour			
Radios On Board:	<input type="checkbox"/> 27 MHz	<input type="checkbox"/> VHF	<input type="checkbox"/> MF/HF
Mobile Number:		406 EPIRB: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Satcom Number:			
Shore Number:		Name:	
Persons On Board:		Home Port:	
Departure Date:			
Departed From:			
Destination:			
ETA:			
<i>Detail your voyage plan below. You may nominate as many reporting points as you wish. Reporting points MUST correspond to a SARCC. First ETA is compulsory.</i>			
Reporting Point	ETA	Course (° T or ° M)	Speed
OUR PROMISE – we will ensure that a search is initiated if you fail to call at a reporting point or destination. YOUR PROMISE – you will inform the nearest base if you do not believe you will make a reporting point on time; a change of destination or your ETA			
VMR use only – DATE & TIME VOYAGE COMMENCED			