

Preparing for a coastal voyage.

This is a list of equipment that you would want to carry for any coastal voyage; it exceeds the mandatory equipment requirements. Our motto is "If you spend the money on insurance, you need to be around to make the claim"

1. Seasickness medication that works.
2. Fire extinguishers, more and bigger (Carmen has 5 new 1A 10BC).
3. First Aid kit with splints and compresses - most needs stem from bodily collisions inside the boat (1 for the boat, 1 for the ditch bag).
4. Lifevests/lifejackets for everyone (Carmen has 8) & Floater suits for everyone aboard (2).
5. Flares, up to date and more than you would think.
6. Waterproof portable VHF's for each person (Carmen has 1 fixed & 3 handheld VHF's).
7. Lifering and 150' floating throw lines (2).
8. Ditch bag on 150' floating line prepared with water, food, flashlights, flares, waterproof VHF, Waterproof GPS, Pocket knife, first aid kit, EPIRB (correctly registered), batteries for VHF and GPS, medications if needed in less than 24 hours. Note: Leave enough room in the ditch bag for the pet, if more than one pet, get more ditch bags. Ditch bags must have adequate flotation.
9. Liferaft sized for the number of persons aboard (Carmen 6) and have the vendor show you how it works. Attach a 150' floating line.
10. Method of Person Overboard retrieval (Lifesling & Davit hoist).
11. MMSI number acquired and programmed into your ships VHF.

As a general rule we have redundancy in key systems. Four GPS (two handheld); three navigation systems (Raymarine CMAP, Nobeltec, Coastal Explorer); two PCs one with Nobeltec hooked into the Raymarine system, one with Coastal Explorer hooked to an independent GPS; One AIS that feeds both PCs; one EPIRB kept with the ditch bag.

Things you might want to practice (in order of priority)

1. Man overboard retrieval, do this with a group and a Coast Guard Auxiliary presence - not alone or with only one other.
2. A fire extinguisher practice, organize with a group (rendezvous activity) and the local fire dept who will assist with the exercise. You need new extinguishers anyway
3. Flare exercise (if you have never fired them off) best done in a group with Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance. Again new flares will not hurt.

Summary Equipment List

1. Seasickness medication - one that works for you and your crew
2. Extra or new fire extinguishers
3. First Aid kits - more comprehensive for the boat, smaller for the ditch bag (include more seasickness stuff here)
4. Workable lifevests/jackets for everyone, with strobe lights attached
5. Flares, types 1,2,3 and 4 in quantity
6. Waterproof portable VHF's for all regular crew
7. Life ring with 150' floating line
8. Lifesling or alternate Person in Water retrieval gear) with 150' floating line
9. Ditch Bag large enough to hold water, power bars, first aid kit, flashlights, strobe light, VHF, EPIRB, GPS and room for the pet. (In emergency put pet in and zip it up)
10. Liferaft sized for the normal number of crew +2 - know how it works
11. MMSI number (free)
12. Throw lines in bags (2)
13. General line, 5/8" or 3/4" either three strand white or braided white 350-500' - not needed to be floating type
14. Length of 3/8" chain - about 40'