

Sailing On and Off the Dock (Slow is Pro)

On the White Board:

- Approaching the dock under sail with various wind directions
- What sails to use on approach and departure
 - Cannot drop/ raise the main unless into the wind
 - *Can* furl the jib downwind
 - Boat will have steerage downwind with no sails (sailing under bare poles)

On the Boat:

- Assessing the situation *before* casting off lines or raising sails
- Make a plan, discuss with crew, delegate roles
 - Skippers should not be distracted during docking, so setting up crew to be independent is preferred. I.E. clearing the doubled back bow line *when it goes slack* instead of *when the skipper says to*.
- Fenders in when leaving the basin, fenders out on approach to the basin
- Checking dock lines are pulled into the cockpit, or clear to use upon return
- Stress “Slow is Pro.” Relying on our bow and stern fenders and bashing into the dock at speed is NOT up to our standards.
- It is very helpful to bring two or three buoys and drop them somewhere in a line for simulated docking (rubber docking). Lowers the intimidation of solid objects tremendously!
- If the students are confident and the wind is light, try docking at the seawall in the Wisconsin basin, at Town Point Park, or at the docks at The Pier apartments for different scenarios. Do not practice docking anywhere that the dock surface isn’t properly fendered. Grab some extra fenders and hang them if necessary.
- The secret to this is a clear understanding of conditions. Take time to watch the wind (wind sock, flags, waves). If there is doubt, make a Plan B. There is no shame in aborting, turning around, and leaving. Unless of course the crew didn’t know about Plan B and things start getting fumbled.