

# Trips to the coast

If you are an RTC based inland it can be a valuable experience for your students to have a go at coastal sailing. It's a great day out for them, introducing them to new skills and the added complication of tides and waves. It will also broaden their horizons and build their confidence. Your instructors can benefit too from a fun and informative change to routine.

The logistics of such a trip can be daunting. Julian Pearson, who is experienced in running RYA courses across all disciplines, attempts to unravel some potential problems.

As an RTC wanting to operate away from your main site you have two options. You can apply for recognition at a secondary site (which must be inspected) or you can link up to another centre and use their recognition for your off-site courses. The second option of going to an existing coastal RTC is often the best arrangement. Some dinghy, powerboat and windsurfing centres are already doing this very successfully.

By linking up with an existing coastal RTC you can be confident that the boats, equipment and operational procedures for working on that stretch of water will have been inspected and scrutinised as fit for purpose.

As always, good planning is vital to ensure the success of your trip to the coast. Making certain you have the appropriate staff, boats, equipment, joining instructions and travel arrangements are just some of the ingredients of success.



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**'I've checked my list. I think we've got everything. Oh...where's the water gone?'**

A few things to consider:

- 1 Be clear about what you want to achieve from the trip based on your students' abilities and aspirations. Discuss with the host centre whether these aspirations are achievable in the time available and with the weather and tide conditions expected.
  - 2 Determine who will be in charge of the event and the on-water organisation. Depending on the course, this should be an SI or Powerboat Instructor from the host centre who is already familiar with the location, safety control measures and operational procedures.
  - 3 Whilst using the host centre staff in key roles, there are still advantages to using your own staff as part of the instructing team. They know your students much better than the host and so can help set the right tone for the trip.
  - 4 Make sure your visiting staff are aware of operating procedures and local dangers. Perhaps an evening briefing could be arranged prior to the trip, with a
- 5 short familiarisation once on site. If you plan to take your own centre's boats to the coastal venue make sure they are correctly equipped (see the 2008 Guidance Notes).
  - 6 Check your centre's employees, third party and boat insurance. Are you covered for such a trip, or have you agreed to operate under the host centre's insurance? Is the host adequately covered for visiting staff and boats? Be clear about which policy is in force and get it in writing if possible.
  - 7 Who will issue your students' certificates? You can only issue certificates following a course away from your main site if you hold recognition for that secondary site. If you are using another centre to host your course, they are responsible for issuing the certificates.

If you follow these simple guidelines your trip should be successful, run smoothly and will be one that that your students remember for all the right reasons.