

DOCKING

Don't approach a dock at high speed. Throttle down gently to keep your craft under control. Decide whether you will dock on port or starboard, put out the fenders, break out docking lines and ready the boat hook. Tell each crew member what specific chore he or she is to do.

Docking technique is determined by whichever is stronger at the moment, the wind or the current. This can be determined from the way in which anchored boats in the immediate vicinity are lying and from flags which show the direction and the strength of the wind.

The simplest method is to head into the wind or current so it will help you stop as you come in. Wise boatowners bring their boat to dead stop a few lengths away from the dock. This allows an opportunity to observe the combined effect of wind and current.

