BAR CROSSING - CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - ANSWERS

Question 1. Coastal river bars are always:

- ☐ Rough.
- ☐ Predictable.
- ☐ Unpredictable.
- ☐ Smooth.

Question 2. The least wave action on a bar is often during:

- ☐ The last of the ebb tide at spring tides.
- ☐ The last of the run in tide at neap tides.
- ☐ Last of the ebb tide at neap tides.
- ☐ The last of the run in tide at spring tides.

Question 3. In coastal NSW, Westerly winds are likely to:

- ☐ Flatten the bar but raise a swell offshore.
- ☐ Increase the strength of the run in current.
- ☐ Raise swells on the bar but flatten them offshore.
- ☐ Prevail during the summer months.

Question 4. Periodic “sets” of higher waves:

- ☐ Occur after every seventh wave.
- ☐ May only be apparent after observing the bar for 20 minutes or more.
- ☐ Are a popular myth.
- ☐ Provide the best moment to cross the bar outbound.

Question 5. “Coastal Refraction” may alter swell on a river bar by:

- [ ] Lowering the height of the swell.
- [ ] Reducing the volume of white water.
- [x] Bending the swell to become perpendicular to the forward edge of the bar .
- [ ] Coastal Refraction is only noticeable along storm beaches.

Question 6. Typical swell speeds are in the range of:

- [ ] 10 to 15 knots and lower.
- [ ] 40 to 50 knots.
- [ ] 15 to 20 knots.
- [x] 20 to 30 knots and higher.

Question 7. Hitting the seaward face of a bar the effect on swell is that:

- [ ] Gradually wavelength decreases, slows up, rises higher and may break.
- [x] Suddenly wavelength decreases, slows down, rises higher, and may break.
- [ ] It flattens off as all its energy is dissipated on the bar.
- [ ] Progressively wavelength increases, speeds up, rises higher and may break.

Question 8. Which statement is correct:

- [x] Waters rotary motion within swells turns to forward motion in breaking waves.
- [ ] The motion of water within waves and swell is always tumbling forwards.
- [ ] The motion of water within both waves and swell is always up and down.
- [ ] Waters forward motion within swell turns to rotary motion in breaking waves.

Question 9. Seaworthiness and experience limit safe bar crossing by any vessel and crew, but regulations limit commercial vessels to conditions below that of:

- [ ] There are no restrictions as long as crew wear lifejackets.
- [ ] 25 knots of wind and 3 metres of swell.
- [x] 20 knots of wind and 2 metres of swell.
- [ ] There are no restrictions.

Question 10. The weather forecast terms of Sea and Swell describe wave creation as :

- [ ] Seas by distant storm, swells by local winds.
- [x] Swell by distant storm, seas by local winds.
- [ ] Swell by wind action, seas by current action.
- [ ] They are two words for the same thing.

Question 11. When preparing to cross a bar outbound this action is unwise:

- [ ] Check the time of the tide.
- [ ] Radio the local Sea Rescue with your ETR and get a current weather forecast.
- [ ] Watch and wait for the most opportune moment before crossing over.
- [x] Stow all the gear in the back of the boat.

Question 12. When crossing a bar outbound this action is unwise:

- [ ] Motor quickly between the waves to limit the overall time spent on the bar.
- [ ] Approach the wave face head on.
- [ ] Slow down at the wave face and not get airborne.
- [x] If condition are bad when on the bar then turn around and head back in.

Question 13. Seaworthiness and experience limit safe bar crossing by any vessel and crew, but regulations limit recreational vessels to conditions below that of:

- [ ] There are no restrictions as long as all wear lifejackets.
- [ ] 25 knots of wind and 3 metres of swell.
- [ ] 20 knots of wind and 2 metres of swell.
- [ ] There are no restrictions.

Question 14. While fishing offshore you should:

- [ ] Keep your outboard idling to avoid restarting problems on your return.
- [ ] Maintain a lookout for ships while offshore.
- [ ] Turn your radio off to conserve battery power.
- [ ] Anchor securely by the stern.

Question 15. When preparing to cross a bar inbound this action is unwise:

- [ ] Check the time of the tide.
- [ ] Don lifejackets.
- [ ] Anchor at the bar edge and watch for an opportune moment to cross over.
- [ ] Stow all the gear in the boat securely.

Question 16. When crossing a bar inbound this action is unwise:

- [ ] Address the trim of the vessel to give buoyancy in the bow.
- [ ] Cross on the back of a wave and prepare for the swell to slow down on the bar.
- [ ] If condition are bad when on the bar then turn around and head back out.
- [ ] Notify the Sea Rescue that you have returned safely.