

## Local Knowledge Quiz Template

Below is a sample local knowledge quiz based on one compiled by Monica Schroeder of the North Brooklyn Boat Club. With some customization, marked with [brackets containing suggestions] it make a great start toward a curriculum for teaching boaters of any NYC harbor based organization about the particularities of their locale and some more general information about conditions in our harbor and then evaluating their knowledge of local conditions to assess their readiness to operate independently on our waterways.

### **Section 1: Nautical**

#### **Equipment**

1. Basic gear for [boat type]
2. What safety gear do you need to paddle after dark?
3. What types of clothing / gear best prevent hypo or hyperthermia?

#### **Marine Radio**

4. What radio channels are used for boat traffic? Emergency?
5. Demonstrate a security call. When should you make a security call? When should you contact a vessel directly?
6. Which radio channel for NY harbor weather?
7. Name two non-commercial radio channels?

#### **Trip Planning**

Propose a float plan for a 3+ hour paddling/rowing trip from a specified launch site in the harbor based on today's currents and forecast weather:

8. At what time would you launch and land?
9. What other condition(s) should you check before heading out and what sources would you use for the information?
10. Would a west wind or a south wind potentially affect you on this route? Why?

#### **Nautical Chart**

11. Is the best time to go through Hell Gate [or to pass some other obstacle] ebb, flood or slack?
12. Point to legal launch/landing sites along the proposed route.
13. Point to emergency take-outs along a proposed route.
14. Point to all possible strainers, pier heads, submerged piling fields or other known submerged objects, blind spots, unusual eddies, or shallow water along your route on the chart.
15. Point to permanent security zones along your route.

#### **Emergencies**

16. What type of rescue would you use for an uninjured person? An injured or weak person?
17. How can you call for help? What information should you report to rescuers?

#### **Rules of the Road and other Trip Concerns**

18. Point out all the Ferry docks within a 3 mile radius of your launch site?
19. What are different ferry situations boaters may encounter and how should you handle them?
20. What other commercial & non-commercial vessel are you likely to encounter and when do you have the right of way?
21. When should you pass in front of another boat and when should you pass behind?
22. What & where are shipping lanes? When is it OK to be inside the shipping lanes?
23. What does one long horn blast mean? 3 short horn blasts mean?

## **Section 2: Environmental**

### **Paddling and Water Quality**

1. What health precautions should you take while boating in the harbor?  
What health precautions should you take when you are done boating?
2. Which types of non-motorized boats put the user at greatest risk for exposure to contaminated water?
3. What should you do if you see large amounts of oil or other contaminants floating in the harbor or discharge from DEP outfalls in dry weather?
4. How might water quality conditions be different at low tide vs. high tide?

### **General Pollution**

5. What is a CSO and why does it affect boaters? Where can one get information on CSO activity?
6. Why are CSOs a bigger concern in more still water bodies (e.g. creeks, canals) vs. the East River or Hudson River?
7. What is a superfund site? Point to 2 Superfund sites on the chart.