



New to KYC launch & haul-outs?

For those newer members that have not experienced an assisted launch or haul-out, you'll find a couple of hints & tips here.

There's no doubting, Launch and Haul-out days are stressful. When we say stressful, that's not only for you, but the crews too, so please follow all instructions carefully and respect each other on the day. A condition of the day is you read the risk assessment and agree to the terms of the day. READ THEM.

Safety:

Number one priority is the safety of everyone onsite.

- Be vigilant at all times, you will not be the only one being assisted.
- Think about leaving children and pets at home if at all possible, at the very least, they must be supervised at all times by someone, not you as you can't offer full concentration to your loved ones. Make sure they are kept away from all launch/haul-out activity.
- Your trailer must be suitable and safe for transporting your boat.



Preparations:

- Take all locks off your trailer at least a week before. The crew may need to move them around to gain access to areas and to place boats in the yards before your assisted day. MAKE SURE YOUR BOAT NAME IS CLEARLY VISIBLE ON YOUR TRAILER.
- We'll say it again... Your trailer must be suitable and safe for carrying your craft. Make sure your jockey is free and usable, brakes are not locked on which can happen if left for a period of time. Check your tyres are inflated correctly, have a general inspection of the trailer and make sure you are happy with it. Take a tyre inflator and jack, oil, grease, maybe even a set of spanners & even rubber mallet to loosen stubborn fittings.
- Think about the weather. There's nothing worse than being soaked. Also consider your footwear is appropriate for the conditions on the day, on and off the boat, and take a change of clothes.
- Take something to eat, even a quick snack can help you through the day.
- Think about what you need to take depending on whether you are launching or hauling-out.
 - You'll probably need a ladder to get on your boat when it's on the trailer, making sure it's secured properly.
 - Do you need fuel for your engine?
 - Do you need to take a leisure battery even if just for lighting?
 - On your own? Can you enlist someone to help you on the day?
 - Have ropes and a boat hook.
 - Have tyre chocks ready.
 - Tarpaulins for covering your boat for the winter if you wish.
 - Mooring gear, ropes, chains, pickup buoys, tools. Place them on your mooring before launch.

On the day:

Remember: Number one priority is the safety of everyone onsite.

- You will need to park in the lower car park.
- You will need your life jacket and it must be worn at all times.
- Crew will be wearing hi-viz gear. There will be a banksman in an orange hi-viz. They will co-ordinate the crew and you, but you are free to stop the process at any time if you feel something is not right. You are responsible for ensuring that your boat is correctly positioned on your trailer.
- There are no time-slots. You may advise the crew that you are ready and they will advise you from there when they estimate you will be called upon.
- Advise the crew of anything you think they should know, for example, some members have markings or pipes on their trailers showing where the boat should sit on the trailer.
- Always stay a safe distance away from moving boats and trailers. Do not walk close alongside. Do not walk in front or behind boats, trailers and the tractor.
- If you are hauling out, take all mooring gear off the mooring buoy, you may not get the same mooring next year, club tenders will be removed after the last haul out.

Think about:

- Have ropes ready on cleats, you'll be on the Slip Jetty and these will need to be used for moving/floating or tying your boat. Have a boat hook handy too.
- If you have an outboard, it's much easier to deploy or remove it on the jetty rather than up or down a ladder. These are heavy as you know.

Finally... never assume. If there's something not right, stop, think, discuss with the crew and don't proceed until everything is right. Remember, our members have a wealth of knowledge and experience, ask is there's anything you are not sure about. Haul-outs and launches should never be rushed.

Once all that's done. Take a deep breath and pat yourself on the back for a good days work!