



## **Obtaining prerequisites for ASA 106 and Sail Canada Intermediate and Advanced Cruising**

**Version dated: Dec 22, 2023**  
**rob.m@barefootoffshore.com**

### **I. Coastal Navigation**

ASA and Sail Canada have Coastal Navigation prerequisites that must be completed before you can be certified for Advanced. In addition, Sail Canada has a Coastal Navigation prerequisite for Sail Canada Intermediate.

#### **ASA 105 Coastal Navigation**

ASA 105 Coastal Navigation is a prerequisite for ASA 106 Advanced Cruising. You can meet this requirement by passing the 105 exam before coming to SVG, or you can write the 105 exam as part of your BOSS 106 course. However, there is not time in the 106 course to teach all of the 105 material, so you need to learn it ahead of time.

To meet the 105 requirement in advance of your BOSS 106 course, you therefore have two main options.

1. You may complete the ASA 105 course and write the exam with another ASA school before your BOSS 106 course. If you search online you will find a number of alternatives. Prices vary significantly.
2. Alternatively, there are various economical self-study options that can enable you to learn the ASA 105 material, and write the exam near the beginning of your BOSS 106 course. Self-study options include:
  - The ASA Online Store (<https://store.asa.com/asa-texts-and-reference-1.html>) offers a various Coastal Navigation / ASA 105 resources.

- There are several ASA 105 training videos available on YouTube
- Starpath sells an inexpensive training manual based on 1210TR: <https://www.starpath.com/catalog/books/1979.htm>. Starpath also provides several ways to get the related 1210TR training chart, including free PDF and BSB downloads, at <https://www.starpath.com/1210tr>
- Free PDF versions of training charts are available from NOAA at: [https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historicals/search\\_attributes?type=Nautical%20Chart--Training](https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historicals/search_attributes?type=Nautical%20Chart--Training)  
You can download a 42 mb version of the MARTHA'S VINEYARD TO BLOCK ISLAND - SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS, Chart 1210TR which is the one used for the 105 exam and many of the courses. You could take the resulting file to a print shop and print it out at chart size. Alternatively, there are various online resources, including Starpath as noted above, that sell a full size paper version for <=\$10. Search online for "1210TR"
- General guidance for taking the 105 exam: <https://www.sailnet.com/forums/general-discussion-sailing-related/301145-asa-105-coastal-navigation-exam.html>
- Here is an ASA 105 practice exam that provides questions similar to those on the official exam, also using the 1210TR training chart: <https://learntocruiseonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ASA-205-Navigation-test-review-questions-Version-D2.pdf>

Using one or more of these alternatives should prepare you to take the 105 exam early in your BOSS 106 course.

## **Sail Canada Coastal Navigation**

- Sail Canada Basic Coastal Navigation is a prerequisite for Sail Canada Intermediate Cruising certification
- Sail Canada Intermediate Coastal Navigation is a prerequisite for Sail Canada Advanced Cruising certification

There are three options you could consider for acquiring these prerequisites.

1. Many Sail Canada schools offer in-person or online coastal navigation courses. A full list of Sail Canada schools is available here: <http://members.sailing.ca/index.php?action=clubs.listSchools>
2. [LearnToCruiseOnline.ca](http://learntocruiseonline.ca) offers online courses covering Sail Canada Basic and Intermediate Coastal Navigation. For details, please see: <https://learntocruiseonline.ca/navigation/>
3. There are some self-study resources available. Dominique Prinnet, a Sail Canada Coastal and Celestial Navigation instructor provides information about his texts here: <http://marinenavigationbooks.com/>  
If you choose to self-study, you can write the relevant exam in Blue Lagoon before or during your on-water Intermediate or Advanced course. Remember to bring with you a clean copy of the teaching chart.

## **2. VHF Radio**

Prerequisites for Sail Canada Intermediate Coastal Cruising include the Marine VHF Restricted Operator Certificate (Maritime).

Again, there are three options you could consider for acquiring these prerequisites.

1. Many Sail Canada schools offer in-person or online coastal navigation courses. A full list of Sail Canada schools is available here: <http://members.sailing.ca/index.php?action=clubs.listSchools>
2. Canadian Power Squadron (<https://www.cps-ecp.ca/>) offers in person an online options.
3. [LearnToCruiseOnline.ca](http://learntocruiseonline.ca) offers an online course covering ROC(M). For details, please see: <https://learntocruiseonline.ca/front-page/ashore-knowledge-modules/marine-radio/>