

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-023

ALL QUIET



QUESTION:

“Is there a command I can use if I need some quiet whenever I’m trying to concentrate on a task such as docking in heavy weather conditions?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

I don’t recall seeing any reference anywhere for communicating in a stressful situation. If you have several passengers on board, it is not uncommon for the crew to get complacent and too much irrelevant talking going on rather than paying attention to the task the Coxswain is trying to get accomplished.

*An effective approach would be to say . . . “**All Quiet**” which signals your crew that you need to concentrate. You can now direct your crew accordingly and make certain they have an assigned task!*

The goal is to make certain everyone understands your intentions and the Crew knows how they will handle their assignment well in advance of doing the task.

Once you have decided on a plan of action, whether it be docking or another task that needs concentration, imagine (well in advance of the task) how the task will take place in your mind. This will reinforce what you are about to do. A calm, slow, orderly approach can only be achieved by knowing what you intend to do and then doing it with confidence.

Patience is the best advice for handling any stressful task. Plan what you intend to do, determine your approach, communicate your intentions, apply sound boat handling skills and risk management principles, then just do it.

If “All Quiet” works in golf, why wouldn’t it work in boating (See photo above)!

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From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”