

# Sailing my way



Anton Keks @antonkeks



COVID work from home/boat



# Motivation

I was born in Tallinn, always lived by the sea

Estonia has 2222 islands, waiting to be explored

Especially: Keri, Ruhnu

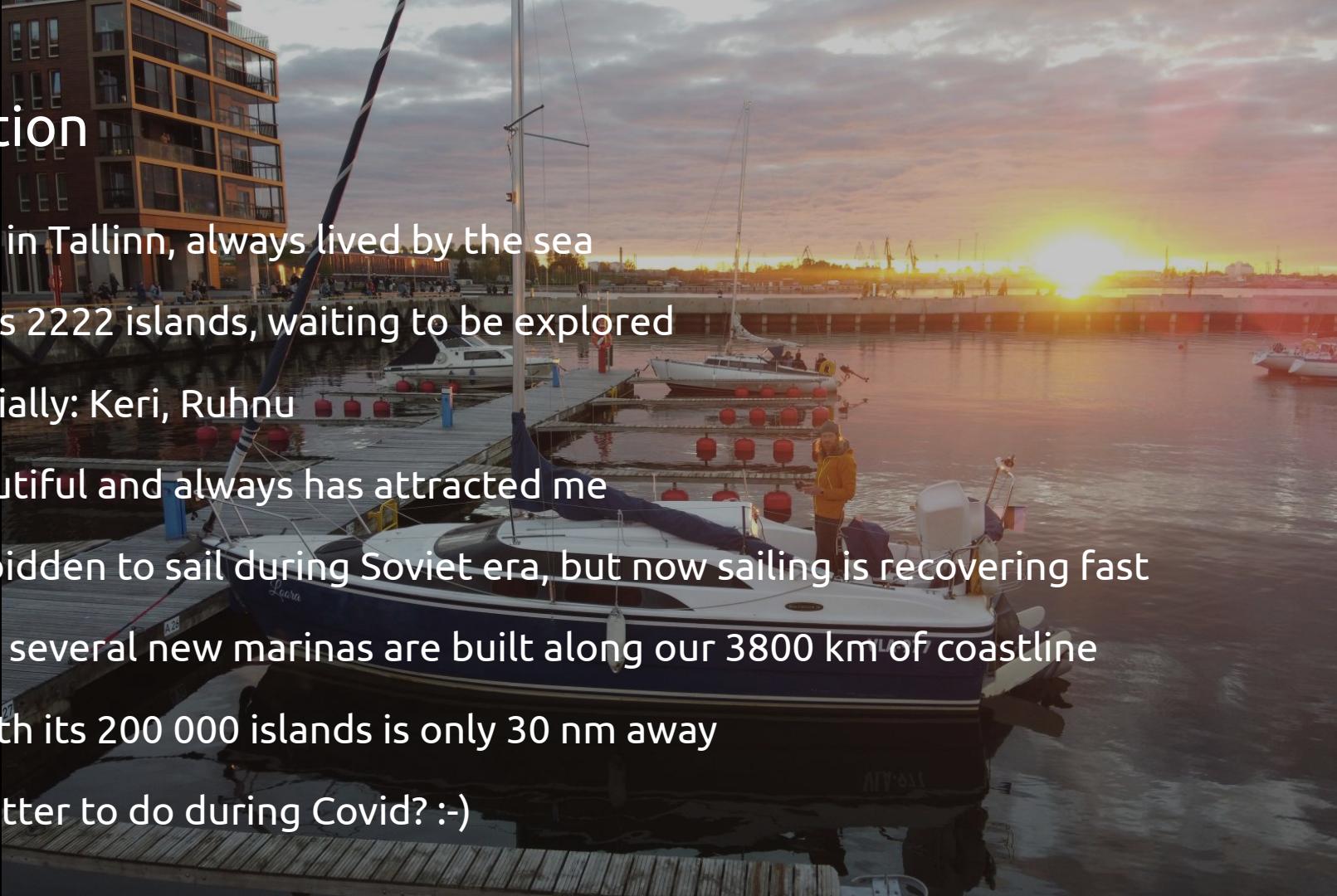
Sea is beautiful and always has attracted me

It was forbidden to sail during Soviet era, but now sailing is recovering fast

Every year several new marinas are built along our 3800 km of coastline

Finland with its 200 000 islands is only 30 nm away

What is better to do during Covid? :-)





# How to start?

In Estonia, a license is mandatory to sail or motorboat

Valid for pleasure only (cannot use for work)

Boats up to 24m long

Takes 2-3 months or less to study

Quite big and long exam

You learn mostly theory, very little practice

Controlling a motor vessel is easy in calm weather

Docking is another story :-)



# The course includes

- Terminology
- Navigation
  - Reading and working with charts
  - Triangulation of position, etc
- Sea signs (buoys, lateral and cardinal)
- Safety (MOB)
- COLREG
- Weather
- How to detect other vessels during the night
- Audible signals in the fog
- Knots
- Extra license for operating marine VHF radio
- Very little sailing is taught - it's a world of its own

# Units

Nautical mile

Latin: "mille passus"

Meridian arc length of 1 min

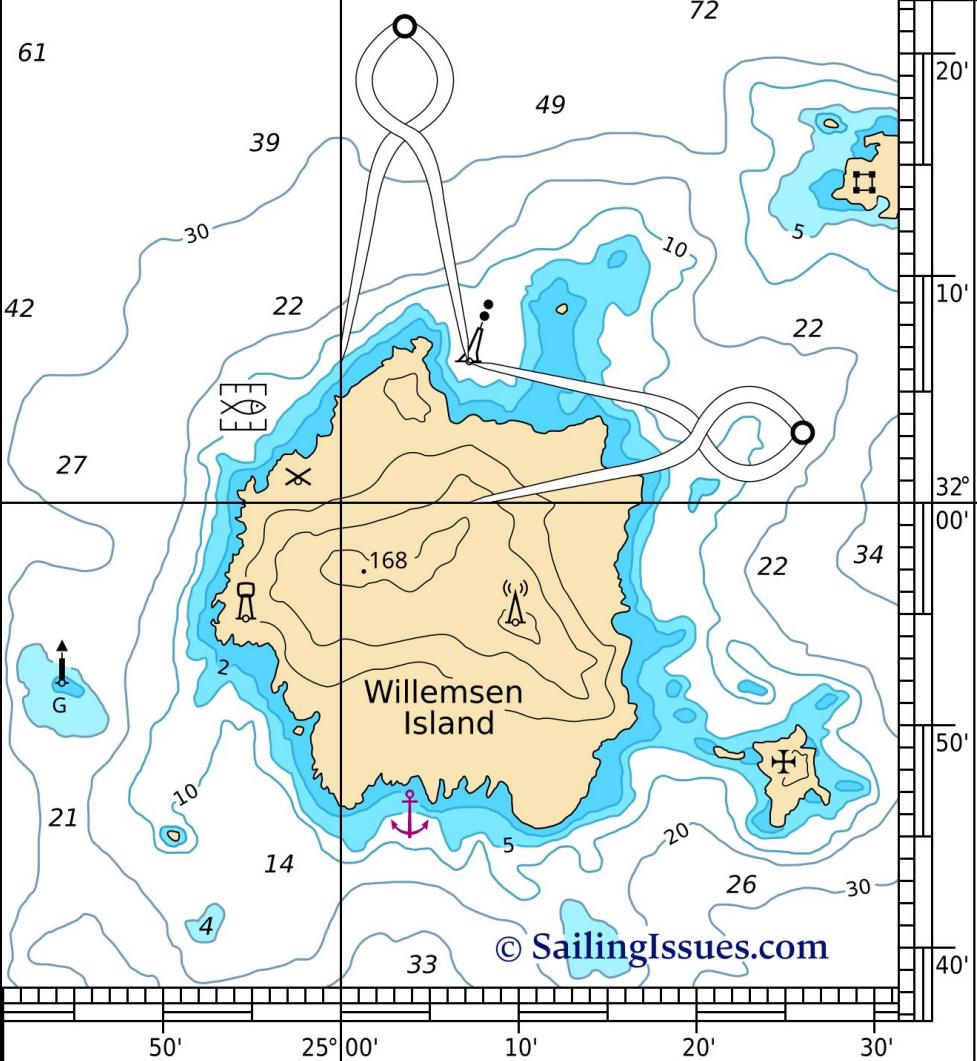
= 1/60 of degree latitude at ~45°

= 1852 m

Knot = nm/h - unit of speed

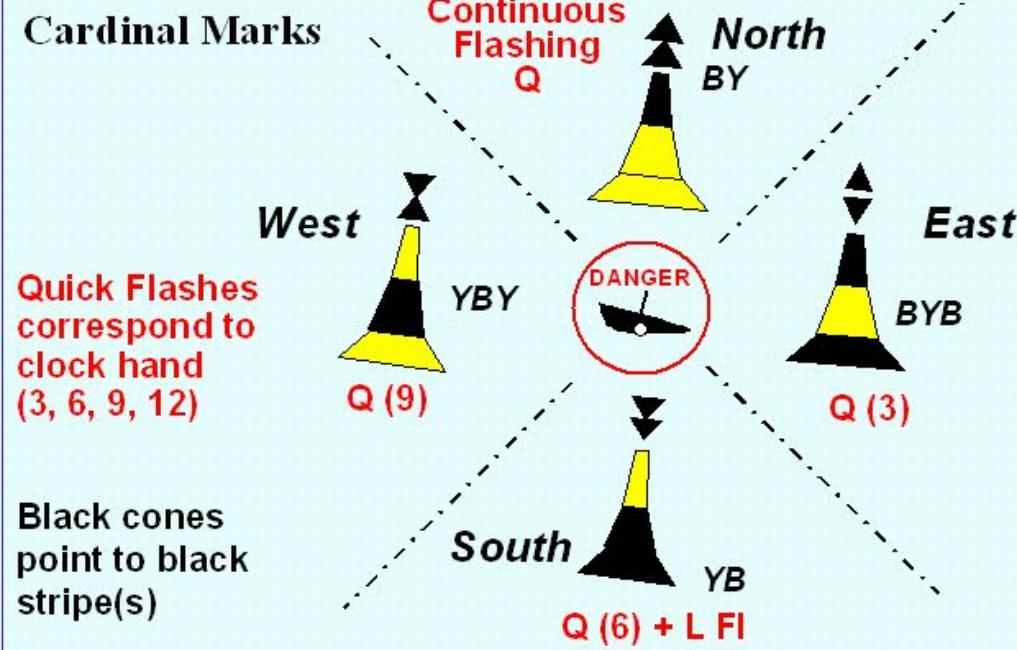
Over ground (SOG)

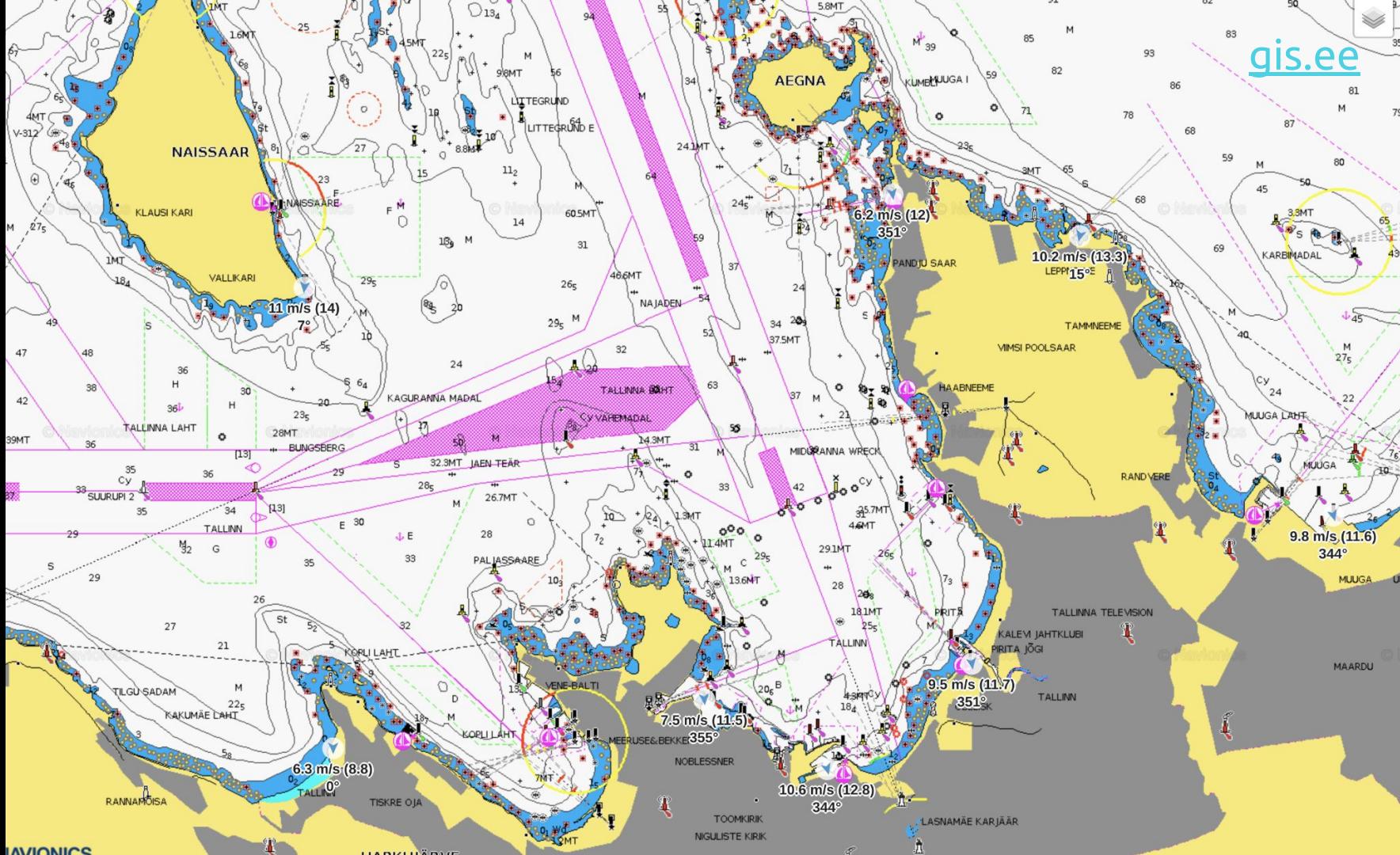
Through water (STW)



# Cardinal and lateral marks/buoys

[More details](#)





# Motor or sailing boat?

Fast & noisy & expensive **vs**

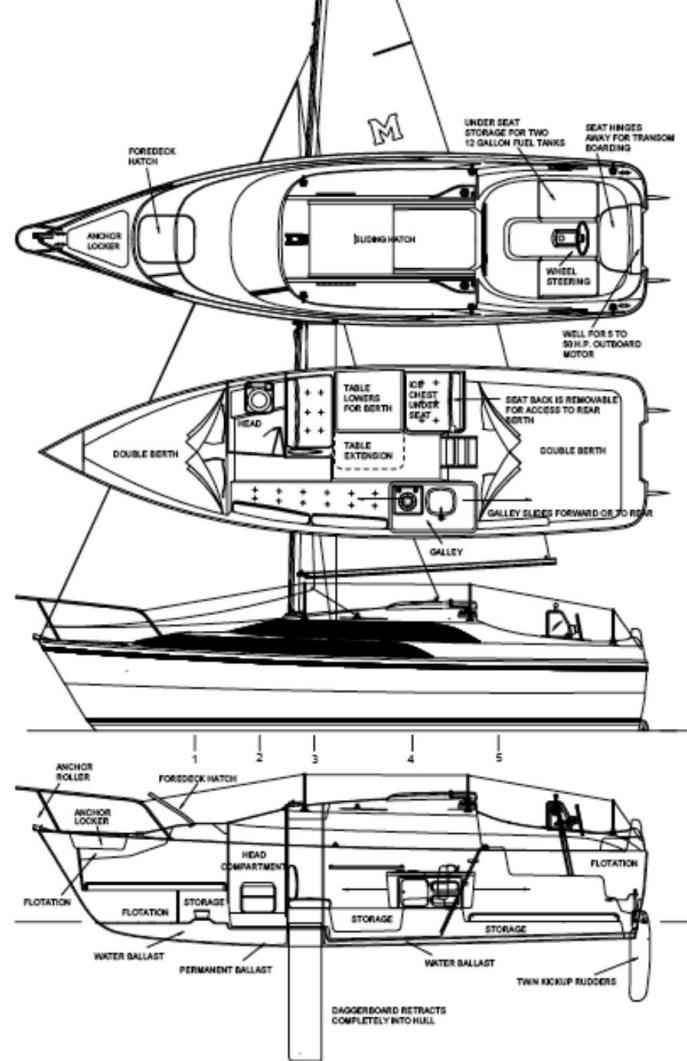
slow & quiet & free to sail

Both with MacGregor 26M :-)

Sailer-trailer, 2009

Water ballast and daggerboard

Discontinued, nowadays sold for 18-30k€



# Registers

Boats are registered in Transport authority, e.g. VLA-977

There is a sailing register (sail numbers, e.g. EST 483)

Need to carry a flag when sailing abroad



# Where have I sailed?

Aegna, Naissaar

Prangli, Aksi, Keri

Rammu, Koipsi, Pedassaar, Malusi

Viirelaid, Kihnu, Ruhnu

[Browse Map](#)



# How marinas work

Guest places ~20-25€ per night

Pay per length

1-3h sometimes free

Facilities: WC, electricity,  
water, sauna

Often a cafe or restaurant



# Costs?

Used sailing boats start at 3-6k€ (or even free)

Newer ones 20-30k€, often shared

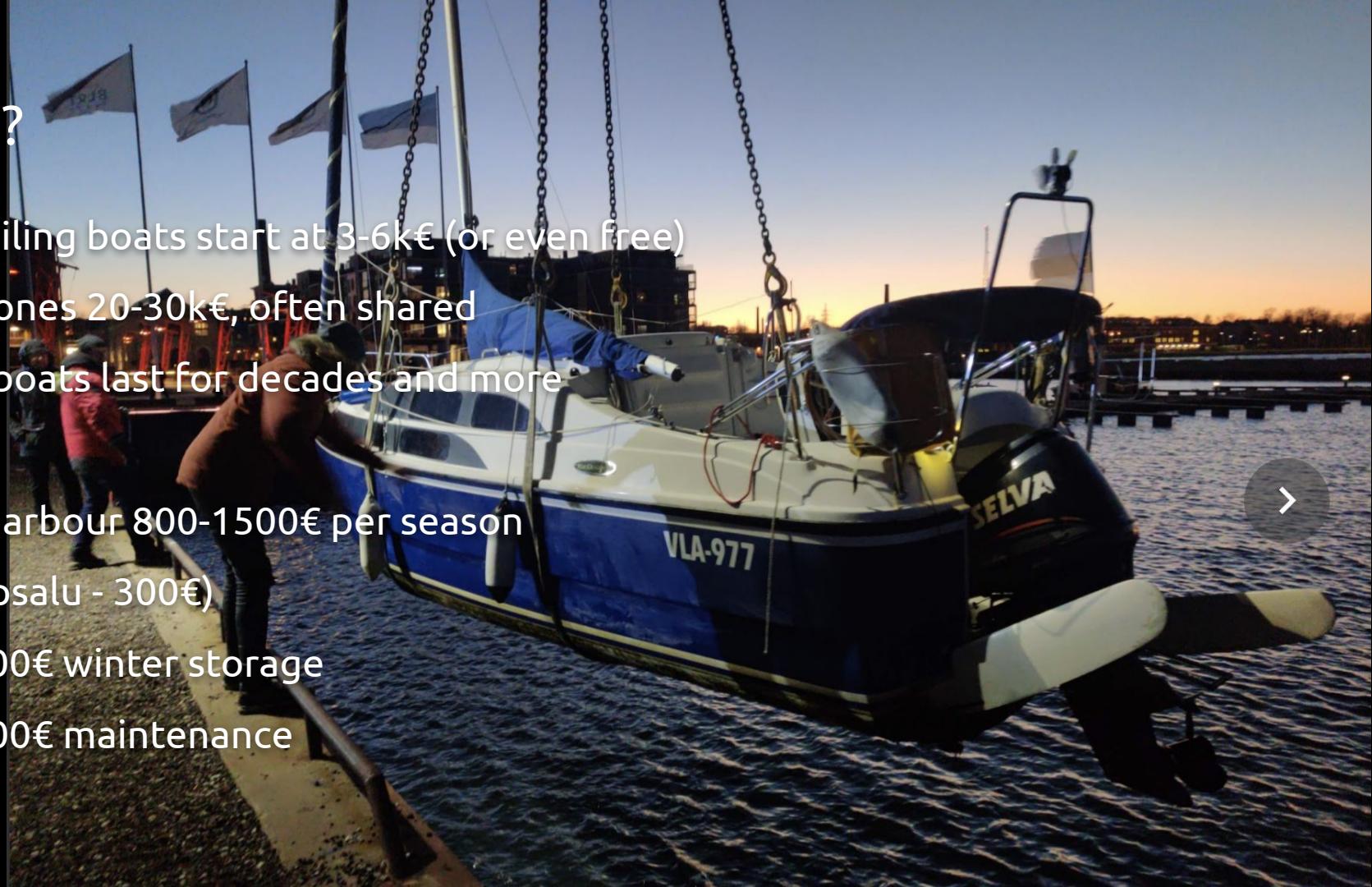
Sailing boats last for decades and more

Home harbour 800-1500€ per season

(In Haapsalu - 300€)

+100-200€ winter storage

+300-400€ maintenance



# Mooring



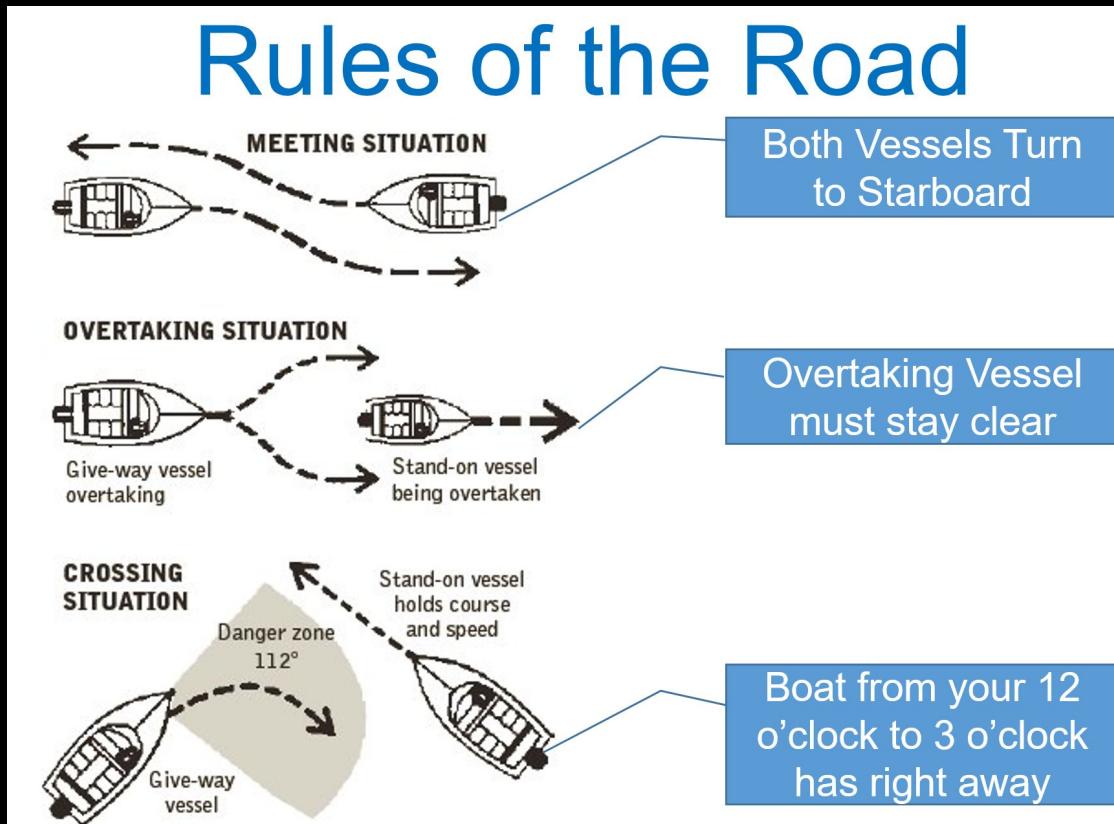
# COLREG basics

Right-hand rule for motorboats

Sails have priority

Sailing boats:  
Windward gives way

Look for direction change



# VHF basics

16 is broadcast channel, half-duplex

You call other vessel and then agree to switch to another one

Vessels have unique MMSI code

**Mayday, Pan-pan, Securite calls**

There is no SOS outside of Morse code



# Motoring

Steering delay ~3s

Wind & waves will turn you

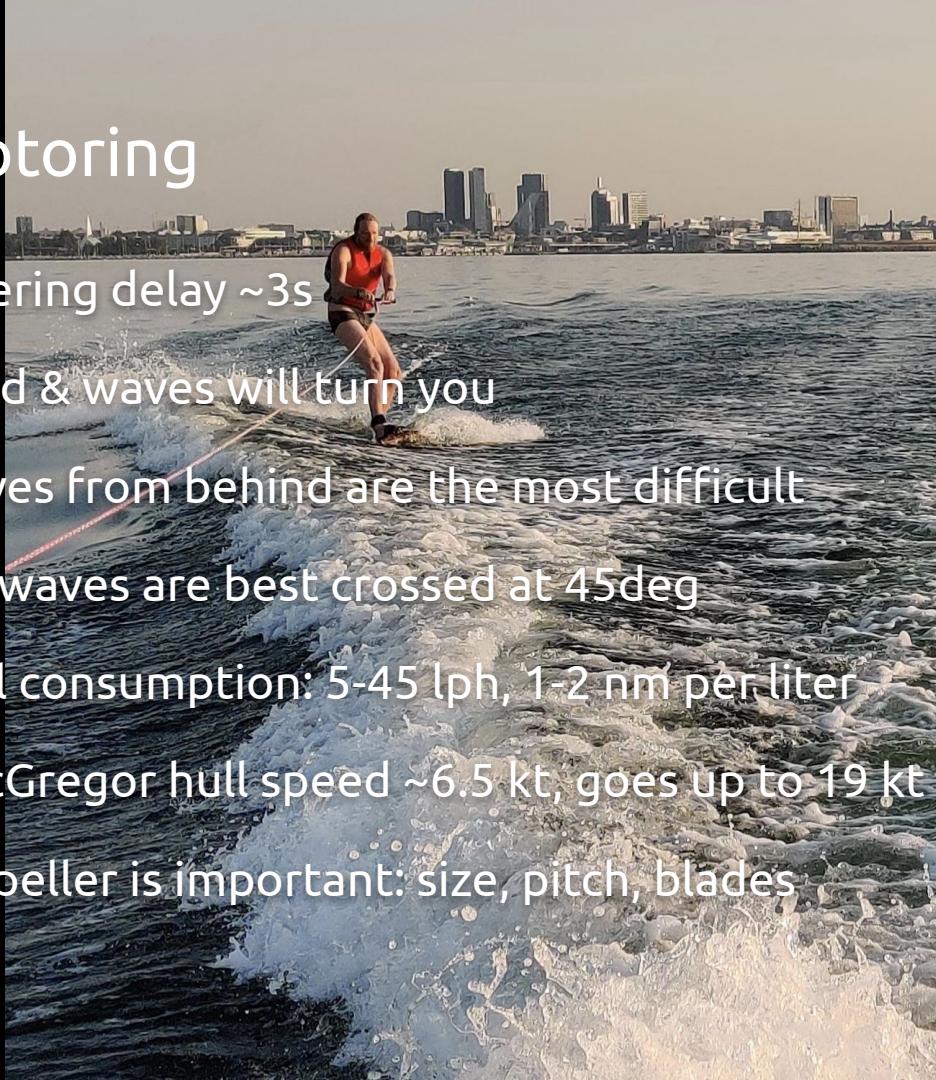
Waves from behind are the most difficult

Big waves are best crossed at 45deg

Fuel consumption: 5-45 lph, 1-2 nm per liter

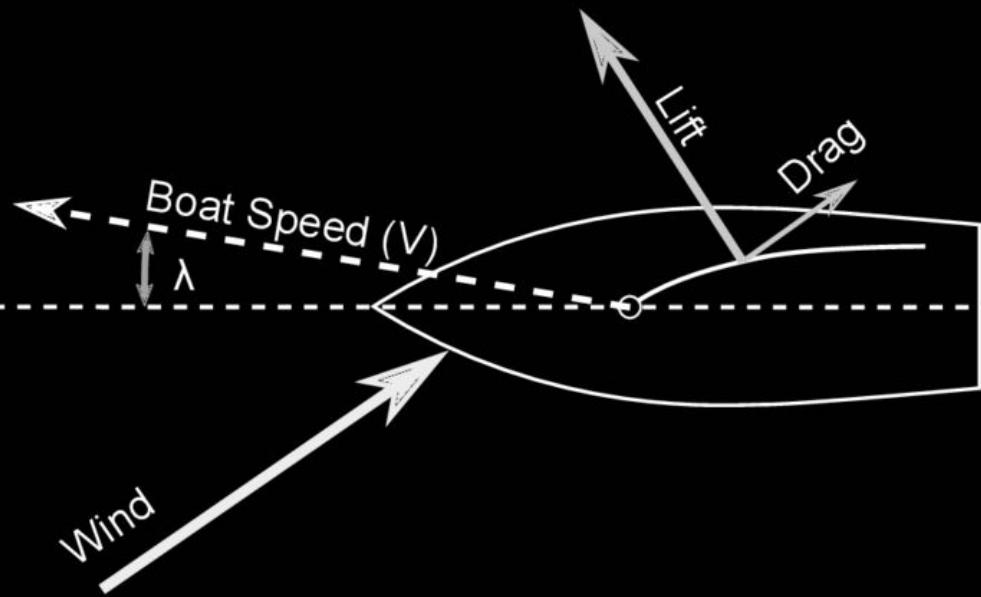
MacGregor hull speed ~6.5 kt, goes up to 19 kt

Propeller is important: size, pitch, blades

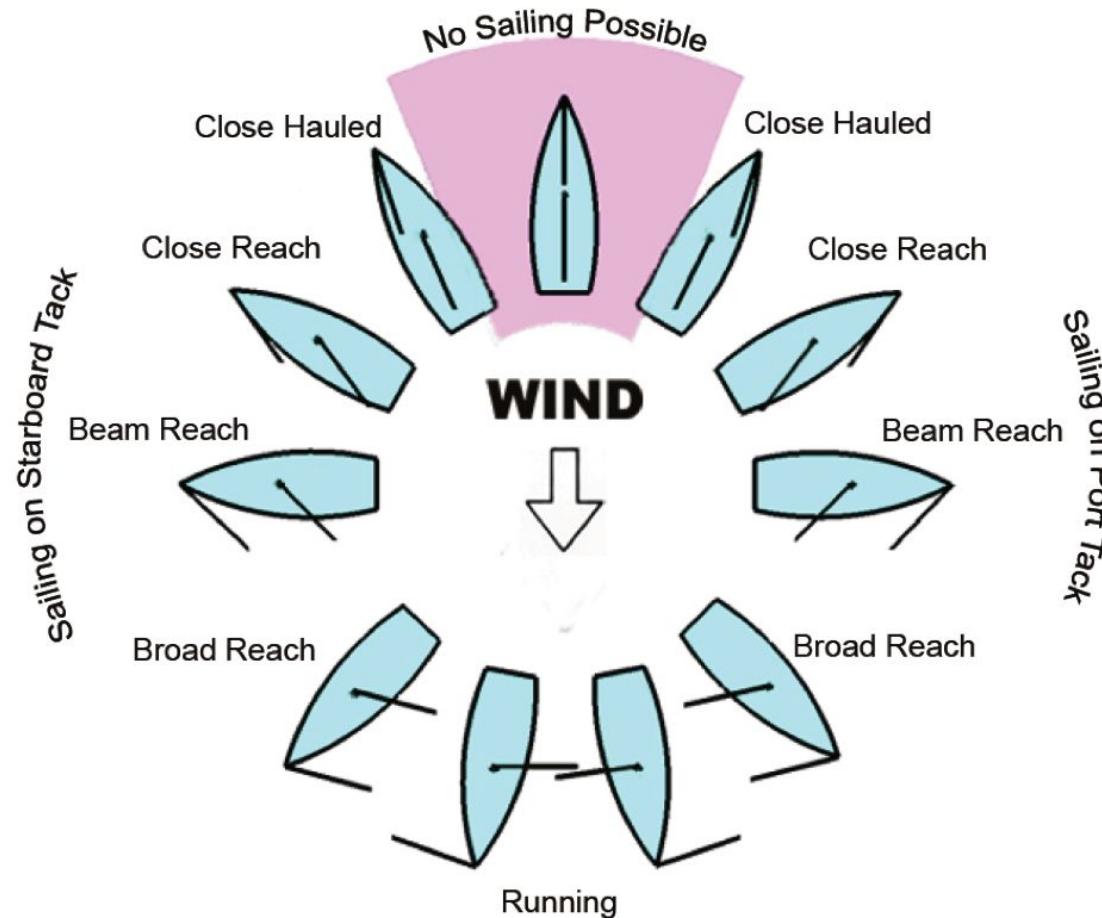


# How sails work

## Heeling

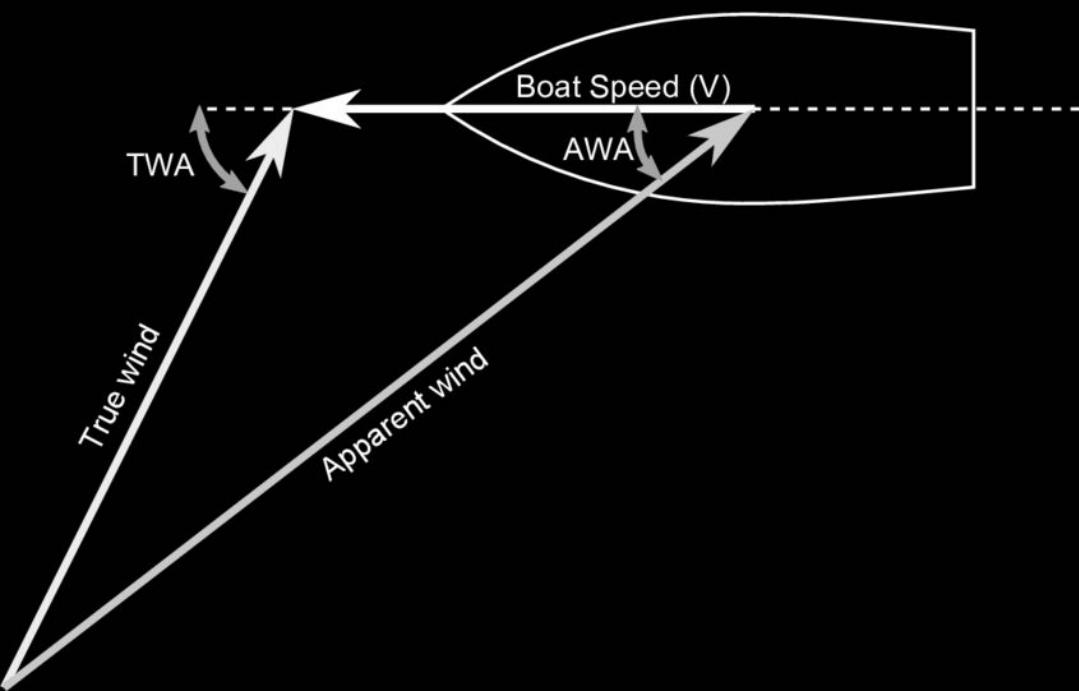


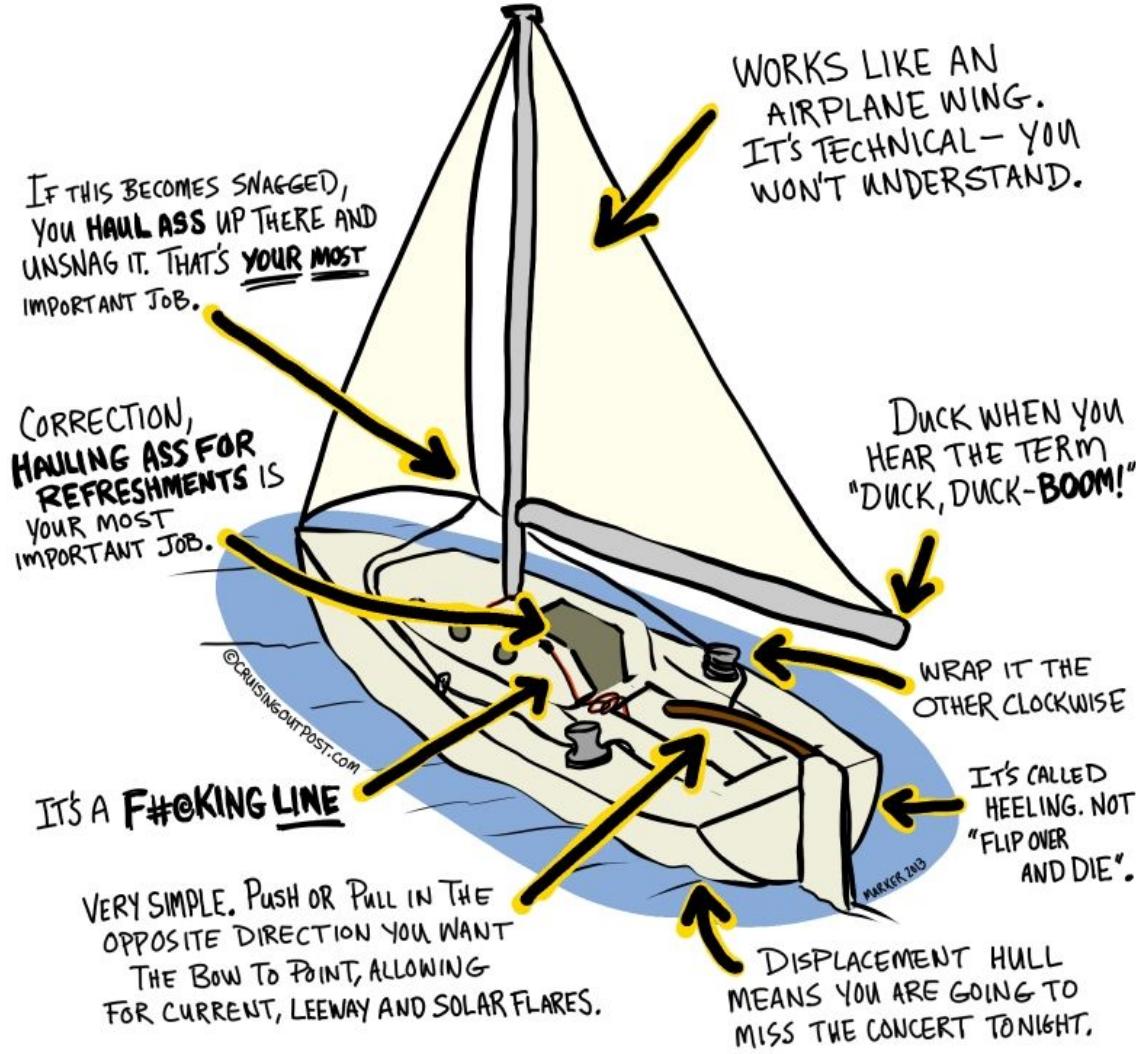
# Points of Sail



# Wind, waves, swell

True wind vs Apparent wind

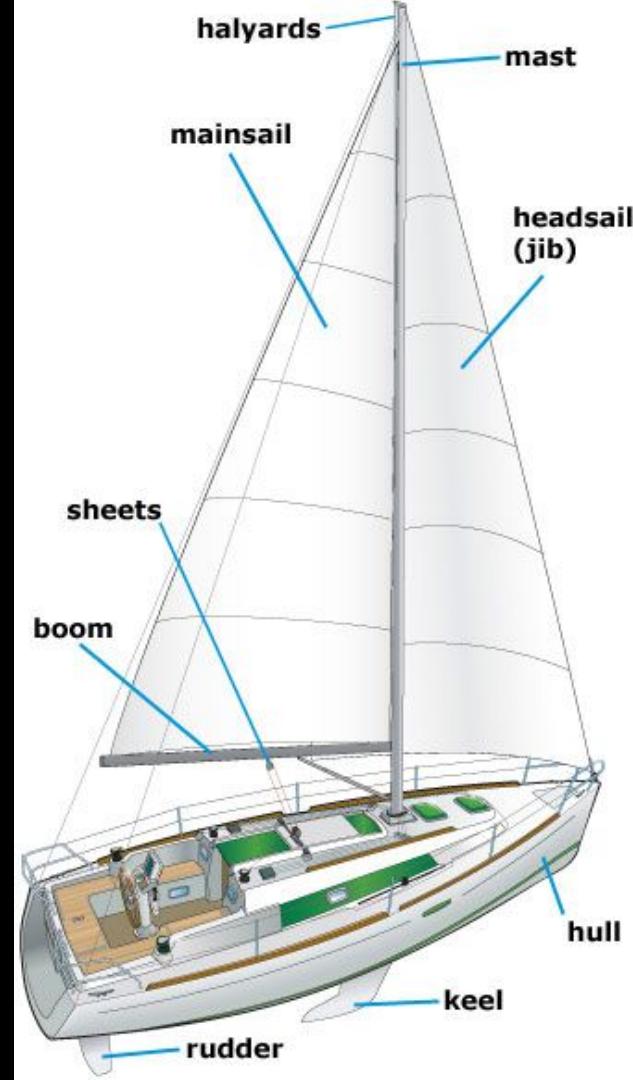




# Raising sails

- Mainsail
  - Turn against the wind
  - Remove wraps
  - Go to the deck
  - Pull halyard
- Genoa (headsail)
  - Just unfurl from cockpit

## Russian terms



# Conclusion

If you buy a boat - it will become your main hobby

Need to know it well for safety

Things break, you will need to fix them. Sometimes at sea

Have backups

Totally worth it!



# Wishlist

Autopilot

AIS transmitted/receiver

Learn to sail with Spinnaker/Gennaker

More free time for longer journeys :-)

