



Lifeboats

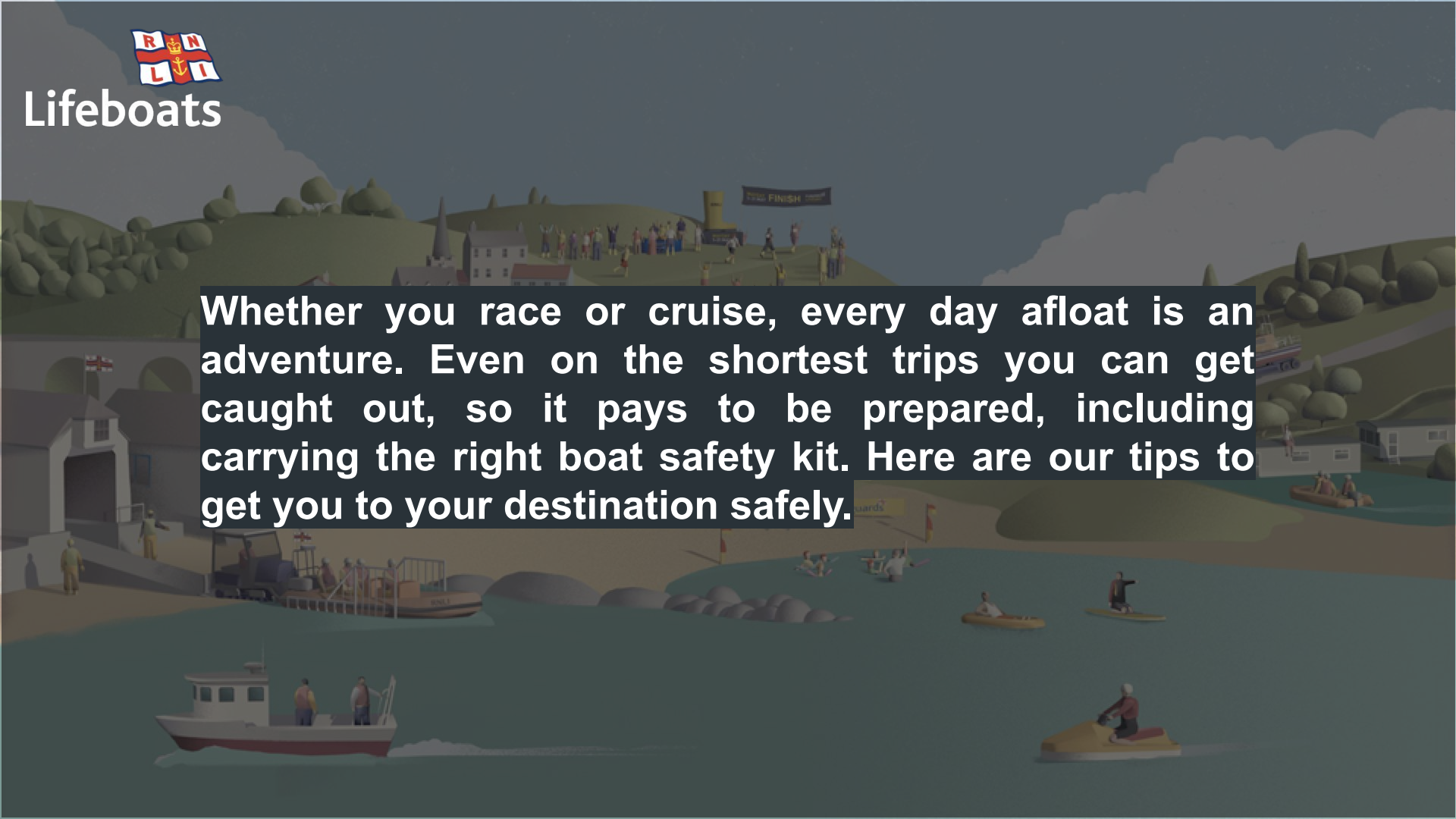
SAILING & MOTORBOATING SAFELY





Lifeboats

Whether you race or cruise, every day afloat is an adventure. Even on the shortest trips you can get caught out, so it pays to be prepared, including carrying the right boat safety kit. Here are our tips to get you to your destination safely.



SOLAS V – Before Going Afloat



Check the WEATHER



Check the TIDE



Capability of the BOAT



Capability of the CREW



Navigational HAZARDS



INFORMATION ashore

Plan

CONTINGENCY Plan

B



ALL Boats
ALL Trips
IRISH Law, UK Law
INTERNATIONAL Regs



Lifeboats

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

One of your most effective safety tools...
...that is completely useless unless you wear it!



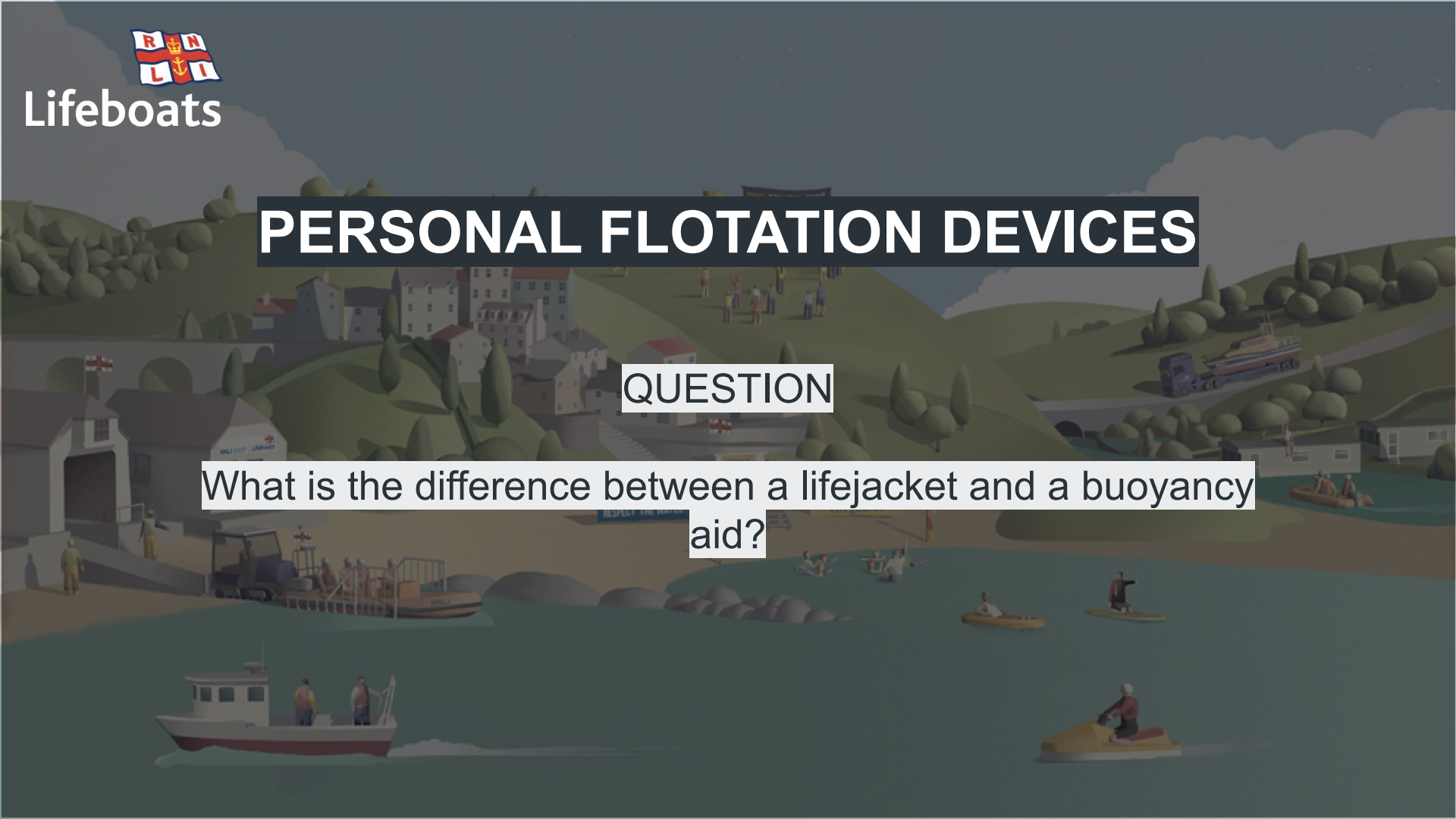


Lifeboats

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

QUESTION

What is the difference between a lifejacket and a buoyancy aid?



A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a red jacket and a black life vest, is shown in profile on a boat. She is looking out over a blue sea with white-capped waves. The background shows a clear sky and the white hull of the boat.

**HOW TO
CHOOSE A LIFE JACKET**



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TRAINING AND BRIEFINGS

A boat is only ever as safe as its most inexperienced crew member when afloat.



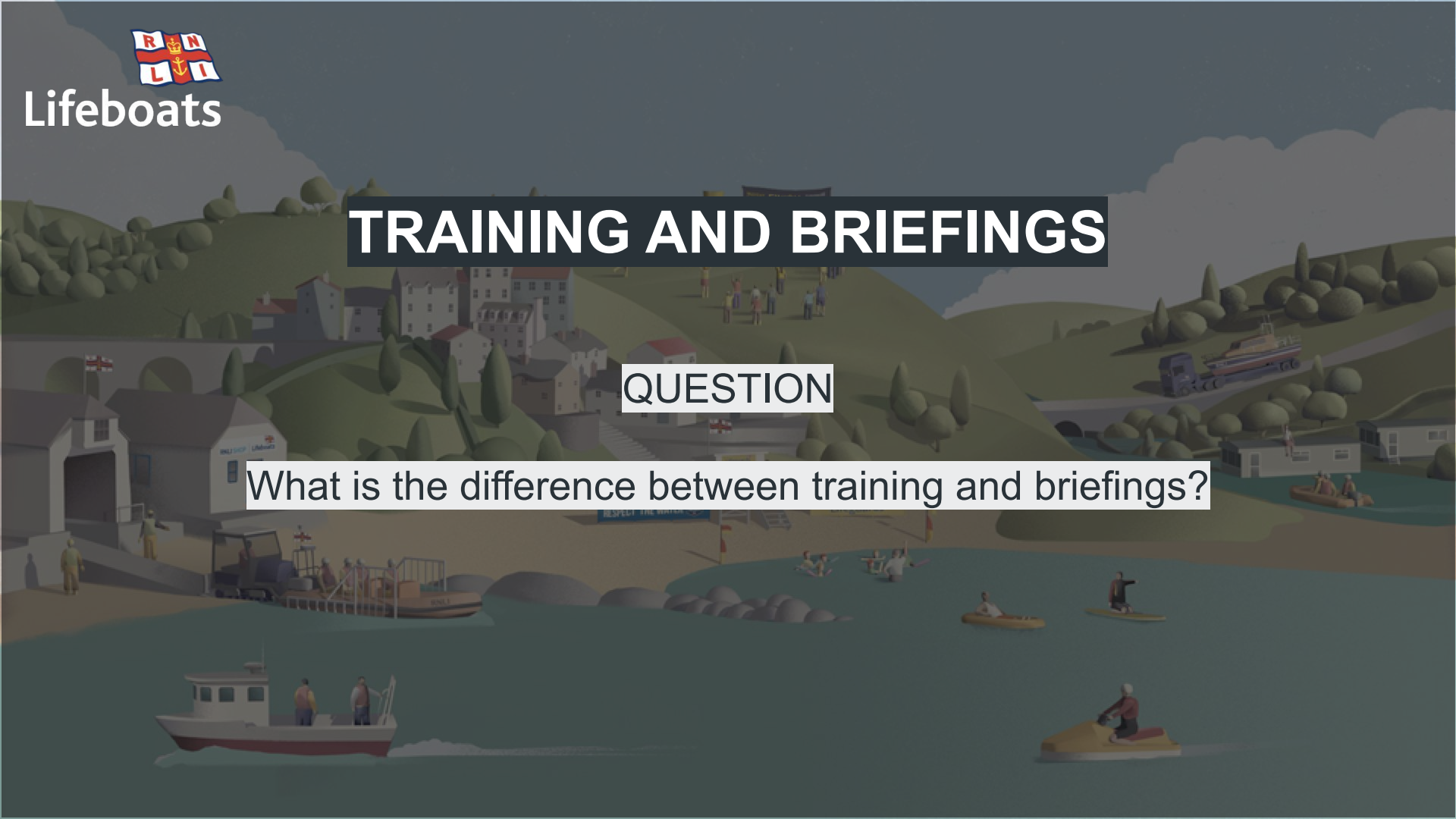


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TRAINING AND BRIEFINGS

QUESTION

What is the difference between training and briefings?





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TRAINING AND BRIEFINGS

IRISH SAILING

QUEST, HOWTH YACHT CLUB



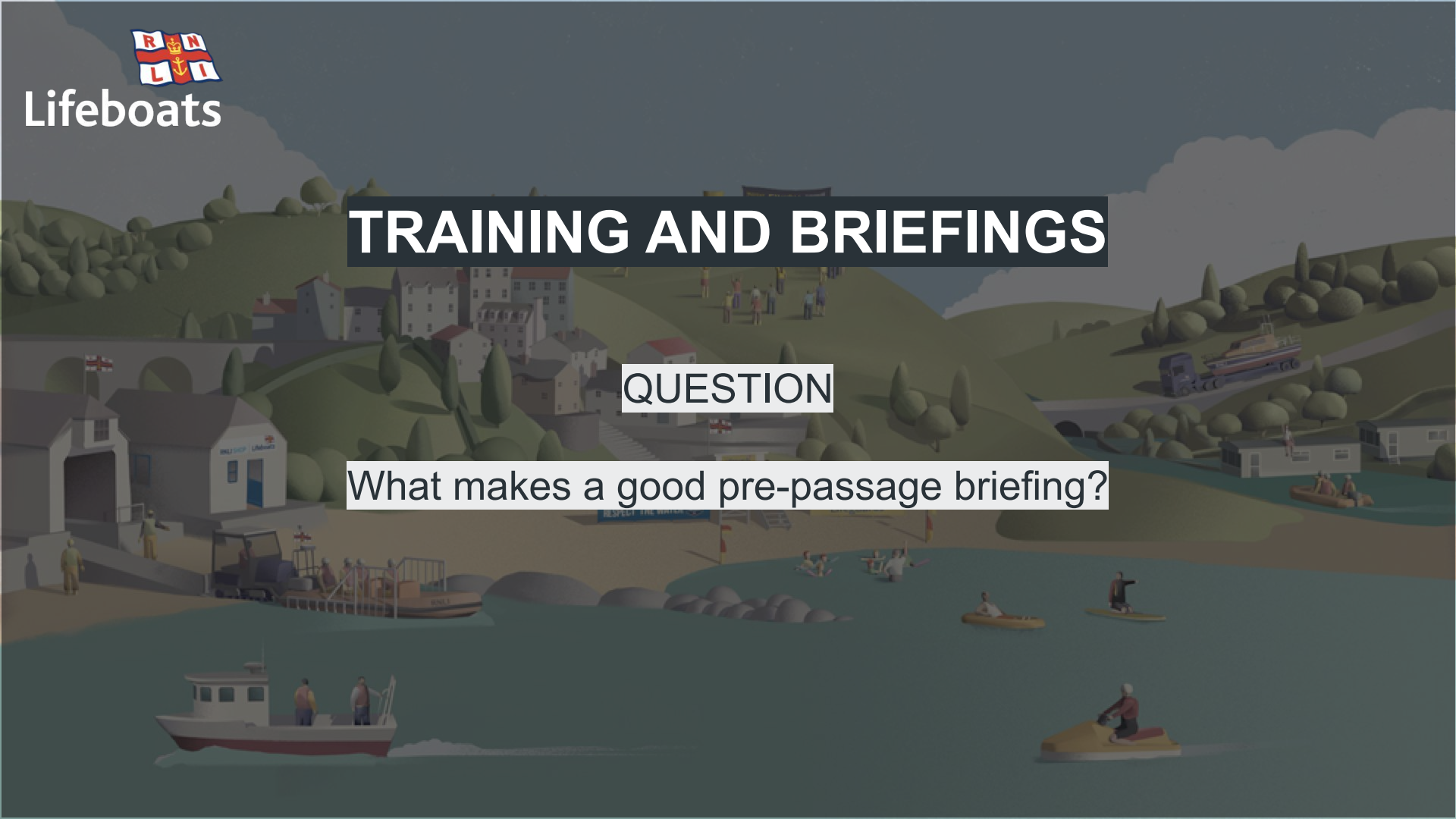


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TRAINING AND BRIEFINGS

QUESTION

What makes a good pre-passage briefing?





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WEATHER AND TIDE

QUESTION

In relation to the weather, what is the difference between a forecast and a model?

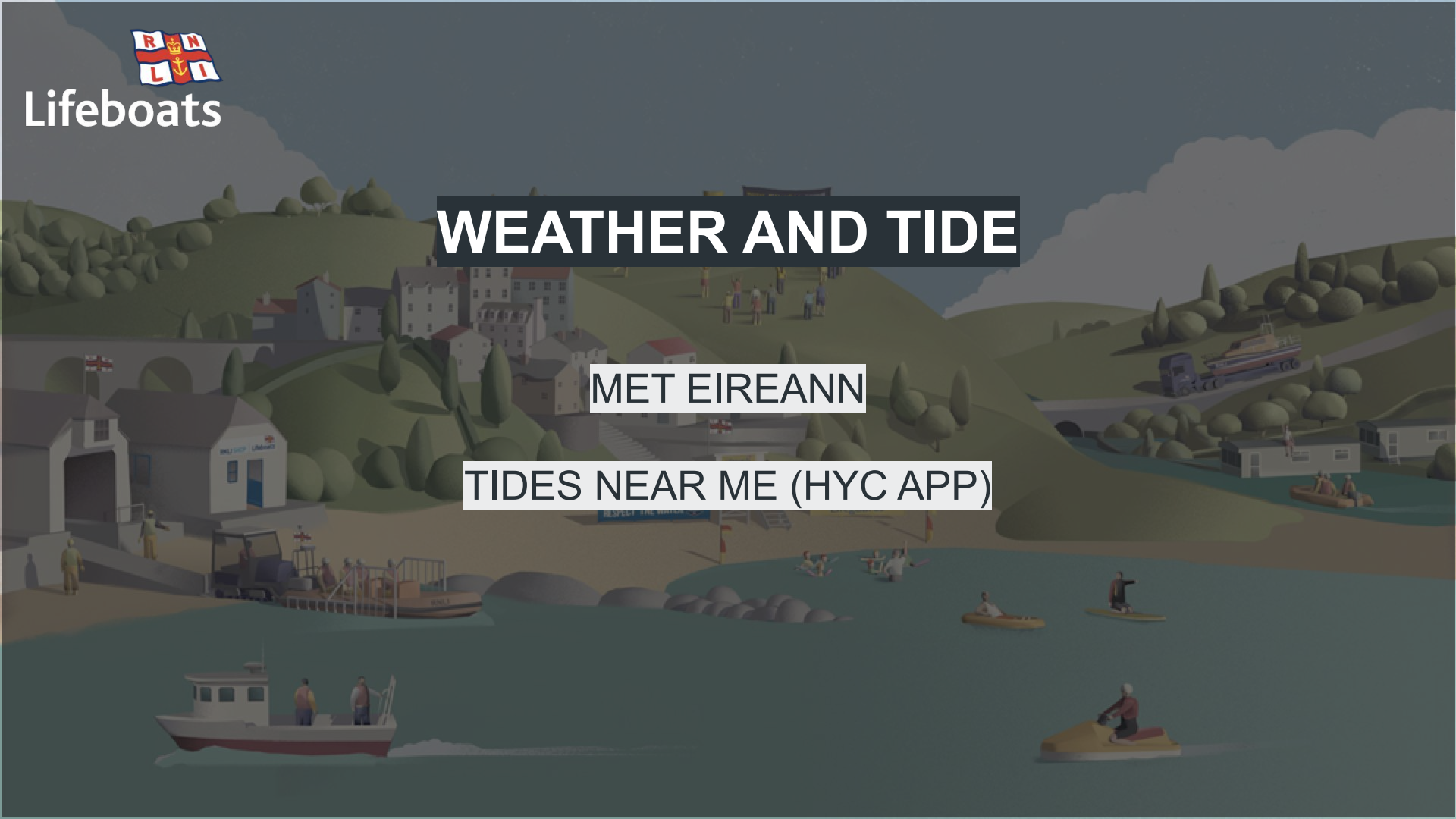


Lifeboats

WEATHER AND TIDE

MET EIREANN

TIDES NEAR ME (HYC APP)





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INFO ASHORE



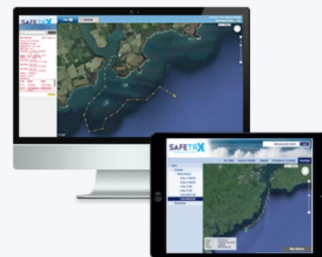
Safe-TRX app



1
LOG



2
TRACK



3
MONITOR/REVIEW



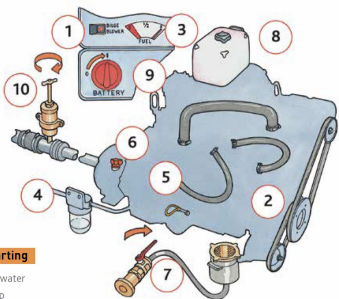
CHECK YOUR ENGINE



INBOARDS AND OUTDRIVES ENGINE CHECKLIST

Pre-start checks

1. Bilge blower
2. Visual check
3. Fuel and fuel tap
4. Fuel filter
5. Engine oil level
6. Gearbox oil level
7. Raw water filter and sea cock
8. Fresh water level
9. Battery switch
10. Stern gland greaser
11. Hydraulic fluid
12. Outdrive leg
13. Instruments working?
14. Out of gear



After starting

1. Cooling water
2. Warm up

Pre-start checks

1. **Bilge blower**
If you have a bilge blower or engine room extractor fan, run it for a few minutes before starting the engine.
2. **Visual check**
Check belts and hoses for cuts, splits or fraying, and look out for oil or coolant leaks.
3. **Fuel**
Make sure you have enough fuel for your intended trip, plus a reserve of about 20% of the tank's capacity, and make sure the fuel tap is open.
4. **Fuel filter**
Some boats have a transparent water separator/filter in the fuel line. Inspect the bowl for water or dirt, and drain off any visible contamination.
5. **Engine oil**
Check the engine oil level with the dipstick, and top up if necessary to keep the level between the 'max' and 'min' marks.
6. **Gearbox oil**
Check the engine oil level with the dipstick.
NOTE: Some gearbox oil levels can only be checked with the engine running. Many gearboxes need special oil: **engine oil will not do!**
7. **Raw water filter**
Shut the cooling water seacock; remove the filter element and clean it if necessary. Replace the element, screw the lid back onto the filter body, and open the sea cock.
8. **Fresh water level**
Some engines have fresh water cooling systems as well as raw water. Carefully remove the header tank cap, and top up with water/anti-freeze mixture if necessary to bring the level within about 50mm of the top. Replace the header tank cap.
9. **Battery switch**
Turn the battery switch on before starting. Do not switch it off while the engine is running.
10. **Stern gland greaser**
Boats with 'traditional' transmission systems have stern gland greasers. Give the cap or handle one full turn.
11. If your boat has an outdrive engine, trim tabs, or power steering, check the level of the hydraulic fluid in the hydraulic reservoirs and top up if necessary.
12. If your boat has an outdrive engine, check that the leg is clear of weed, rope, plastic bags, etc and is fully down.

After starting

1. Immediately check that there is a good flow of water from the exhaust pipe or cooling water tell-tale.
2. Allow the engine to warm up so that it will tick-over smoothly before setting off.

Community Safety, RNLI Headquarters, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 1 Collyer Quay, London EC3A 3AQ,
and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20033026 in the Republic of Ireland



OUTBOARD ENGINE CHECKLIST

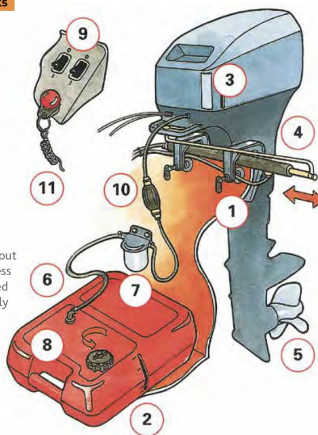
Pre-start checks

1. Clamps or bolts
2. Fuel
3. Oil
4. Controls
5. Propeller
6. Fuel line
7. Fuel filter
8. Tank vent
9. Battery switch
10. Primer bulb
11. Kill cord

NEVER run a water-cooled outboard motor out of the water unless you have arranged some other supply of cooling water

After starting

1. Cooling water*
2. Warm up



Pre-start checks

1. **Clamps or bolts**
Make sure the engine is securely clamped or bolted to the boat.
2. **Fuel**
Make sure your fuel is fresh and uncontaminated, and that you have enough for your intended trip, plus a generous reserve. Do not overfill.
3. **Oil**
Some two-stroke outboards need oil mixed with their fuel. Make sure you use a marine two-stroke oil (labelled TCW3) and that you mix it in the right ratio. Other two-strokes have a separate oil reservoir. They also require a proper marine two-stroke oil.
Four-stroke outboards have an internal sump like a car engine. Check the level with the dip stick, and top up if necessary with engine oil (not two-stroke oil).
7. **Fuel filter**
If it is fitted with a water separator/filter, inspect the filter bowl for dirt or water and drain it off if necessary.
8. On small engines with **integral tanks**, make sure the fuel tap is open.
9. **Tank vent**
Open the tank vent.
10. **Battery switch**
If your engine is connected to the boat's electrical system, make sure all the necessary switches and circuit breakers are switched on.
10. If it is fitted with a **primer bulb**, squeeze the bulb until it is firm.
11. **Kill cord**
If your engine has a kill cord, connect it to the kill switch and clip the other end to your leg or lifel jacket. Test it to see that it works.

After starting

1. Immediately check that there is a good flow of water from the **cooling water*** tell-tale. If not, check that the tell-tale hole isn't clogged.
2. Allow the engine to **warm up** so that it will tick over smoothly before setting off.
* Many smaller outboards are not cooled by circulating water, but by air, so this point does not apply to them.
4. **Controls**
Turn the steering wheel from lock to lock and the throttle/gear control from ahead to astern to make sure that the controls operate correctly.
5. **Propeller**
Make sure the propeller and drive leg are free of debris such as rope, weed, fishing line, plastic bags.
6. **Fuel line**
Connect the fuel line to the tank and to the engine. Make sure it is in good condition and free of kinks.

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Lifeboats

CLOTHING

Avoid bulky clothing. **Thin layers trap more air and allow you better freedom of movement.** Invest in a good base layer – merino wool is wicking, thermal and breathable.

Choose **brightly coloured outers** – they're easier to see than blues and greys at dusk and in fog.

A snood, buff or balaclava covers the neck and can be pulled over your ears and nose to **prevent the Rudolph effect!**



Lifeboats

CLOTHING

A **spray hood** will give protection from wind chill and flying water.

Thick, thermal **gloves are good** but can be tricky if you're fiddling with knots and adjusting sheets. Fingerless gloves improve dexterity.

Choose **comfortable, waterproof, breathable boots** with good grip – big enough to accommodate thick socks.



Lifeboats

FINALLY

Always wear an **appropriate lifejacket**.

Always carry a **means of calling for help**.

Ensure there is an **emergency action plan** in place.

Ensure everybody onboard has a boat/passage **briefing**.

Get the right level of **training** for your craft.

Always check the **weather and tide times**.

Make sure **someone ashore knows your plans**.