

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
Office Of
The Secretary
P.O. Box 502
New Haven, Conn.

March 8, 1962

TO THE MEMBERS:

You undoubtedly noted with interest our Race Secretary's report of events which befell several of our members during last fall's racing. We were most fortunate that in the circumstances no one was seriously injured or lost. This happy result, however, did not lessen your Governors' concern for the future.

The Governors considered possible regulations setting forth specific requirements of seaworthiness to be met by boats before they were permitted to race, and other similar drastic steps in the interest of reducing the likelihood of such an event occurring again. However, on careful reflection they felt that the matter of seamanship was something that could not be improved by regulation. As a result they suggested that the members be asked to exercise sound judgment and good seamanship in times of stress, particularly adverse weather conditions whether before a race or during a race. There is nothing about the race that requires anyone to finish if good seamanship dictates withdrawal. Nor do the Governors believe any of the membership will think any the less of the skipper who exercises this kind of discretion in the face of adverse weather conditions. The same discretion should also be exercised before the contestants start a given race. A good skipper is never afraid to admit conditions are such as to make a passage in his vessel unwise.

The Governors believe that if good judgment is exercised by each contestant, we can avoid a lengthy set of eligibility requirements per race, inspections and all of the other things that would be required in the implementation of any set of regulations. Each member's cooperation is earnestly solicited for this effort in safety. It is hoped also that members contemplating inviting guests for participation in our races will impress such candidates with the Governors' concern for everyone's safety.

Please note however, as in the past, the Race Secretary and Classification Committee have the final say as to the eligibility of any boat.

Sincerely yours,

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John E. English
Secretary