

## Common Commands Under Sail

**“Bend the Jib (or Headsail)”**- This command directs the attaching of the Jib and/or Headsail in preparation to set sail.

**Gunner and Mate:** 1.) halyard is bent (tied) to the sail peak (top grommet of the sail)

2.) down haul is bent to the tack (lower forward grommet of the sail) and is then belayed to a bow cleat.

3.) halyard is hauled away raising the sail and then belayed to a belaying pin.

4.) sail is furled.

**“Make Sail”** then: **“Set the Headsail and Jib”**

**1) Gunner:** Unfurls the headsail. **Mate:** Hauls and belays the headsail sheet.

**2) Gunner:** Unfurls the Jib. **Mate:** Hauls and belays the Jib sheet.

then: **“Set the Mains’l”**

**Gunner:** Lets go the Mains’l brail line.

**Mate:** Shakes out the Mains’l. **Coxswain:** Hauls mainsheet.

**“Set the Tops’l”** **Mate or Gunner:** Lets go the tops’l brail line, hauls and belays the tops’l sheet.

**“Brail the Tops’l”** **Mate or Gunner:** Lets go the tops’l sheet, hauls and belays the tops’l brail line.

**“Brail the Mains’l”** **Mate or Gunner:** Hauls the Mains’l brail line and belays. **Coxswain:** Lets go the main sheet.

**“Ready about”** This order announces preparation to come to the opposite tack.

**Then: “Helms a’lee”** Announces that the tiller is hard over, initiating the tack. **Gunner:** 1.) Clears the foot and sheet of the headsail (bottom edge of sail) over the jib, 2.) clears the foot of the jib over the gun. **Mate:** Sheets home the Jib and Headsail. **Crew:** Maintains boat trim by moving to the windward gunwhale (be carefull not to foul sheets with your feet).

**“Back the Jib”** (used when “in Irons” during a failed coming about) **Gunner:** Backs the Jib by holding the Jib clew out to opposite side of desired tack. **Coxswain:** Holds rudder hard over opposite direction of desired tack.

**“Strike the Jib/Headsail”** **Gunner and/or Mate:** 1.)Let’s go Jib/Headsail sheets, run through fairleads 2.) Lets go the Jib/Headsail halyard, lowers sail, uties halyard from peak becket. Both ends of Halyard belayed to pins. 3.) Tack line is let go from cleat, untied from tack becket, sail is stowed in sail bag. Headsail tackline belayed to cleat.

**“Furl the Jib/Headsail” Mate:** Let go Jib/Headsail sheets, run through fairleads. **Gunner:** Rolls Jib/Headsail onto halyard securing with sheet for quick release when setting sail.

**“Prepare to Run Wing and Wing”** This sail configuration is set when running before the wind. The mains’l is set on the opposite side of the Jib. **Gunner:** Furls the headsail. **Mate:** Hauls the jib to the opposite side of the mains’l then sets the whisker pole. **Available crewmember:** Sets the whisker pole on the mains’l.

**“Prepare to Jibe”** (This maneuver is used when tacking downwind). With the command “Prepare to Jibe:” **Mate:** Hauls the jibsheet and lets go on the opposite tack. **Coxswain:** Hauls the mainsheet and runs out on the opposite tack. **Crew:** Be aware of, and maintain boat trim. (extreme care should be taken during this maneuver, an uncontrolled jibe in strong wind can result in broach and possible capsize...not good).

**“Clear for Action” Gunner and Mate:** Jib is reefed, clearing the sweep of the bow gun (the order may be given to furl the headsail. **Gunner:** Tompion and vent cover is removed from gun, linstock is lit. **Able Crewmember:** water bucket filled.

**“Fend off” All Hands:** Push away from closing dock or boat using boathook, sweeps, etc.

**“Man the weather rail” All hands:** Take a position on the windward side gunwhale to trim boat when reaching or beating.

**“Man over Board!” All Hands:** Flotation Device thrown in direction of man (or woman) in water. **Mate and Gunner:** Prepare to come about. **Able Crewmember:** Ready a throwline.

**In the event of capsize:** Stay with the boat, since it is positively buoyant and will float even when swamped. Stay clear of loose rigging and sails. Take head count of crewmembers.