



# RACE PACKET 2025

**Welcome to WA360**, a 360-mile love letter to the Pacific Northwest, where mountains slam against the sea and conditions ride the spectrum from majestic to terrifying. You're not just paddling, rowing, or sailing; you're diving headfirst into a symphony of saltwater and blisters you'll probably name.

In these pages, we've packed every ounce of logistical wisdom you'll need, so you can focus on conquering this madness. Still scratching your head after reading? Hit us up. We're not just here to watch you flounder; we actually want you to make it to the start line in one piece. Good luck with the prep.

Onward!

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WA360 is a project of Northwest Maritime

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

WA360 takes place on lands and waters that are loved, cared for, and reverently stewarded by the Indigenous people of the Salish Sea and have been since time immemorial.

Today, Indigenous people are our neighbors, colleagues, and partners in a shared love and respect for the sea and its teachings.

We are grateful to respectfully live and work in this place. This acknowledgment is one act in the ongoing process of working to deepen our relationship with the people of these lands and waters.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

**Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk.** A team's decision to participate in the race, or to continue racing once they've begun, is theirs alone. By participating in this event, each competitor releases the race organizers and officials from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

WA360 Racers are operating vessels within Navigable Waters of the United States, and as such, are subject to any and all regulations contained in COLREGS and other Federal, State, and local statutes. It is their responsibility to know and adhere to these laws.

WA360 does not employ safety support vessels, and the GPS tracking system utilized is primarily for entertainment purposes.

Sound good? Then read on.

# RACE CALENDAR

*All times Pacific Standard and subject to change due to: weather, whimsy, bad omens.*

Pre-Race		
November 15		Application Period Opens
March 15		Slacker Tax Kicks In
<i>Price goes up the longer you wait. Fun, right?</i>		
May 1		Applications Close
May 15		Registration Deadline
Race Time		
June 27	1 PM	PT Moorage Open
<i>Overnight moorage in Port Townsend will be an option when you register</i>		
June 27	12-5 PM	Race Check In
June 27	5 PM	Skipper's Meeting
<i>All team members are encouraged to attend!</i>		
June 28	7 AM	<b>BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS</b>
<i>Let's start this thing off with some waffles.</i>		
June 28	11 AM	Race Start
July 12	12 NOON	Race End

## THE BASIC-EST OF RULES

**No Using Your Engine.** Teams may keep an engine in the vessel and in working order, but starting that engine during the race means disqualification. This includes motors and engines of any fuel type. Human and wind power only for propulsion. Solar, wind, and human power are okay for charging things—and no, not for charging da battery that powers propulsion of any kind. We trust you to keep your honor and don't break this rule, but just for fun, we're going to tag out your engine anyway. *Note: Breaking the seal and using your engine to assist a vessel in distress won't disqualify you. In fact, we'll cheer you on. But make sure you call the Race Boss once you finish being awesome.*

**No Pre-Planned Support.** No pre-arranged support during the race. You must rely on your wits. You can buy supplies along the way, but no pre-mailed drops, staged assistance, or chase boats. Even if they don't help, they're still an unfair safety net. The same applies to shore teams offering remote support like weather updates or repairs—don't do it! Your team must be independent and self-reliant. If the help is available to everyone (like weather radios, stores, or a stranger bearing a piping hot basket of stroopwafels), it's fair game. Any doubts? See Rule 8.

**Rule 8.** If we have to call our lawyers to determine whether you're disqualified, you are automatically disqualified. *Read: If you're considering doing something that is questionable to the spirit of this thing, don't do it. Finish the race with your honor intact.*

**Time Limit.** 14 Days. That's how much time you've got to complete this thing. Technically 14 days and 1 hour. Beat the clock and be there by Noon on July 12.

**No Swapping Crew.** No switching out or gaining crew. If you lose somebody due to injury, illness, or because you don't like them, the team will be revetted in *real time* for suitability to continue—you need to get approval from the Race Boss to keep racing.

**Portaging.** This is permitted. (And has been done.) That said, it cannot involve any other vehicle, not even a bike.

## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

**Self-Reliance.** WA360 is an unsupported race that challenges participants to depend on their own skills, preparation, and judgment. You are responsible for your safety and navigation, with no safety support vessels provided or allowed. This race demands a thorough understanding of your vessel, the equipment you'll carry, and the conditions you may face.

**Required Equipment.** All racers must carry safety equipment as required by federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, the following items are mandatory for this race:

VHF Radio - Essential for maritime communication and emergency contact. Racers must have a working VHF radio on board and be familiar with its operation.

GPS Tracker - A GPS tracking device will be issued to each team and must be active and securely attached to your vessel for the duration of the event.

*While the GPS tracker is a useful safety tool, it is primarily provided for entertainment purposes, allowing friends, family, and race officials to follow your journey. We do not guarantee the accuracy, functionality, or uninterrupted service of this device.*

*Remember: You are prepared for the hazards of this race, but your friends and family are not. Talk to them about what they might expect, and make it clear that the tracker may not always be reliable. If needed, make a backup plan.*

**Equipment Inspection.** All teams will be required to undergo inspection by a race volunteer. You will be contacted to schedule this inspection.

**Further Education.** For those looking to enhance their skills, we encourage you to explore the maritime education programs at [Northwest Maritime](#). These programs provide training in essential areas like navigation, communication, and Puget Sound tides and currents—offering a great way to prepare for the challenges of WA360.

## RACE START, WAYPOINTS, FINISH

**Race Start: Port Townsend** The race begins (hopefully with a really loud noise) at 11 AM on June 28, 2025. The starting line will be a line drawn between the end of the Northwest Maritime Center Dock and a committee boat. The start line will be open for 30 minutes, but why wait? Go for it!

**Waypoint 1: Olympia Shoal.** Your first waypoint is The Olympia Shoal in Budd Inlet. Go around it without losing a keel.

**Waypoint 2: Goat Island.** Next up, pass within two miles of this Isle on your way to the decision between Deception Pass and the Swinomish Channel. Flip a coin?

**Waypoint 4: Bellingham Bay Buoy FL Y 10s PRIV.** It's the one a little north of Fairhaven. Keep it to port heading north.

**Waypoint 5: Point Roberts.** We'll have some kind of mark here, positioned somewhere near Lighthouse Park. We'll tell you more ... later.

**Race Finish: Port Townsend** From Point Roberts, pick your return route back to Port Townsend. The finish line is the same as the start.



## CLASSES, WINNING, WHAT WINNERS WIN WHEN THEY WIN

Okay, we're not going to tell you "how to win" because we don't know that ourselves, but we will tell you what class you might fit in.

**The Wind Division.** This is the name of the class some might call "Sailing." If at any point you propel yourself with sails, then this is your class. Yes, kayak sails **are sails**.

**The Muscle Group.** This clever little double entendre, which we may regret choosing, is the name of the class of racers who are only using their muscles to move. Breeze be damned.

Winning means being the first in your class to cross the finish line. You know, like a race.

As their reward, the winning teams of WA360 will be forever immortalized upon the **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS**, which shall be passed from winning team to winning team until the end of days. Other prizes, as supplied by various race sponsors, shall also be heaped upon them.

In addition, **Official Sidebets** are in the works. Think of these as superlatives, or you might even go so far as to consider them awards for classes that in our stubbornness we have decided not to create. Keep an eye on the website and on our social media channels to learn about these.

## **PARTIES, LOGISTICS, AND OTHER FUN CONSIDERATIONS**

We at Northwest Maritime are fond of shindigs, and so we will be throwing **two** of them to celebrate WA360.

**The WA360 Breakfast of Champions.** Let's start this off with a bang. And some pancakes. The WA360 Breakfast of Champions will take place the morning of WA360 Race Start on the Northwest Maritime Center campus, and is open to all—racers, friends, family, and however many seagulls find out about it. Think of a breakfast item, and there's a good chance it will be there. Extra points if you show up in your jammies.

**The WA360 Awards Ceremony.** This soiree will take place the evening of July 12—mere hours after the finish line slams closed. Expect fizzy drinks, hot food, and a chance to heap praise upon all racers. This party will either take place in Port Townsend or somewhere in Seattle. TBD.

## **BITS, PIECES, AND THINGS TO KNOW**

**Boat Launching in Port Townsend.** Large vessels requiring a boat lift can contact the Boat Haven Marina for launch services. Trailer-launch vessels can also launch at the Boat Haven Marina, or you can check out the Salmon Club Boat ramp. Hand launching can happen... anywhere. But we have a pretty good beach for that at the Northwest Maritime Center.

**Trailer Storage.** During the race, there will be a few options to leave your truck and trailer, and these will be communicated after you register. But please note: If you are able to sail your boat here or have somebody take care of your trailer for you, that would be best—space is limited.

**Race Check-In and Skipper's Meeting.** We'll need you to show up to Port Townsend on **June 27** so you can check in with the Registrar, receive your GPS tracker, and attend the mandatory skipper's meeting. (Your whole crew is encouraged to attend!) Check-in will be from 12-5 PM at the Northwest Maritime Center on June 27, with the Skipper's Meeting starting at 5 PM.

## HELPING TO MAKE THIS RACE AWESOME

**Tell your story.** It's likely that you are considering (or have already applied to) this race because you were inspired by the story of a previous racer of WA360, [SEVENTY48](#), or [Race to Alaska](#). Now that you're at the helm, it's your turn to light a fire for the next generation of racers. We want to hear your stories, be there with your triumphs, and watch as you make it through the lows. Here, in 2025, the best way to tell your story is through social media—so have a plan for getting your story out. Perhaps you're a video guru—make a documentary! Maybe writing is your strong suit—start a blog. However you do it, get your story out, and make sure you let us know you're doing it so we can put it through the megaphone.

**Involve Your Community.** Are you part of a club? A community group? An after-school youth program? Find ways to connect the dots between this race and all the other good things you're doing in the world. Turn your race effort into a fundraiser, a beneficial program, or anything else you can dream of that uses this platform to connect people.

**Youth Bonus.** You might already know, but we've decided that for WA360, team members under 18 years old don't get charged additional crew fees, and teams entirely composed of youth even get a 20% discount off the base fee. Use this event to engage the young people in your life with adventure, challenge, and community.

## TO SUMMARIZE

**This race rules, and it rules because you're a part of it.** So show up with spirit, show up with grit, and wherever your finish line may be—get there with your honor intact.

All the best with pedal drive designs, weekend training runs, and dehydrating all that food. See you in June.