The Reef Situation

While you are on holiday in Tahiti, the opportunity arises to join the return trip of a yacht to Australia. It is being crewed by two experienced sailors. The rest of the crew is made up of people like yourself. The voyage gets underway on April 8. It is intended to sail 2,300 nautical miles (3,700 km) to Auckland (New Zealand) and then to Australia. This information is given to the owner and you are expected in Mooloolaba by mid-May.

Because of favorable conditions, it is decided to bypass New Zealand. Unfortunately, the radio has gone out, so you are unable to notify anyone of this change of plan. Your last confirmed radio report had been on April 14. Once in the Tasman Sea, showery and overcast conditions prevail. On the afternoon of April 27 the wind begins to pick up and that night it is gusting 35 knots, so only the two experienced sailors remain on deck. In the early hours of the morning, the boat suddenly goes into a complete roll and hits a reef with a single great crack. It comes to a halt, lying on one side. Fortunately, no one in the cabin is injured.

The yacht is shipping water through the hull and a quick look around reveals that the mast has gone. One of the crew is missing and is not seen again. The other member is still attached by his lifeline, but has been badly injured—crushed when the boat rolled. Before he dies, he is able to tell you that you are on Middleton
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salvaged Items</th>
<th>STEP 1</th>
<th>STEP 2</th>
<th>STEP 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Rank</td>
<td>Team Rank</td>
<td>Expert's Rank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Jackets (One per Person)</td>
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<td>Ship’s Compass</td>
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<td>Large Tube of Antiseptic Cream</td>
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Synergistic Problem-Solving Model

Synergy occurs when the interactive efforts of two or more people have a greater impact than the sum of their independent efforts. Synergistic problem solving is achieved when groups maximize their use of available resources, knowledge, and task skills by exhibiting constructive (as opposed to defensive) interaction styles. It is further promoted when members approach problems in a rational, interpersonally supportive manner. The outcome is an effective solution—one that is both accepted by members and of higher quality than their individual solutions.

Effective Solutions

Quality

Acceptance

Rational Skills and Processes
- Analyzing the Situation
- Setting Objectives
- Simplifying the Problem
- Considering Alternatives
- Discussing the Consequences

Interpersonal Skills and Processes
- Listening
- Supporting
- Differing
- Participating
- Striving for Consensus

Task Skills Knowledge Resources

Reef Survival Situation™ Participant’s Booklet
Problem-Solving Model Page Sample

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