



LAUNCH OPERATIONS AT THE HARLEM YACHT CLUB

Most members have been around long enough to have a pretty good understanding of how our launch operations work. As a refresher for those in the know and an introduction to the newer members, I offer the following guidelines and insights:

- Launch operators monitor VHF channel 72. There is also a telephone in the launch house (not yet in service) 718-885-3235. VHF is the preferred method of communication.
- Launch operators do get meal breaks, although most times they will respond and interrupt their meal to provide service to a member. There are set meal times, but the operators use their best judgment based on how heavy the demand for service is, weather, etc. Please be patient.
- Weather- As stalwart and brave as they are, launch operators are instructed by the Launch Chairman to suspend operations during severe weather. Please understand they are not going to take the launch out during a lightning event. You and they are better off waiting it out either in the club house or aboard your boat. High wind situations are reason for a shut-down, at the discretion of the Launch Chairman. These conditions are the most hazardous to both members and operators alike. We have a pretty good safety record. We would like to keep it that way.
- The launches are **not** tow boats. Situations that arise within the HYC mooring field will be handled on a case by case basis. The launch operators are **not** trained for towing operations. Please don't ask the launch operator to assist in towing your boat if it is outside our mooring field. This kind of activity is one of the most hazardous on the waterfront, especially during inclement weather. It is advised that the boat owner contact a commercial towing company, Sound Salvage, or any other via VHF. The club has a group membership with Boat U.S. It is advisable to join and purchase towing insurance. It is very reasonable and accepted by the tow-boat operators in our area.
- Please don't ask the operator to transport you anywhere outside of the HYC mooring field. Exceptions to this rule must go through the Launch Chairman. Taking the launch outside of its area of operation causes unfair delays of service to other members.
- It is accepted practice to be ready to board the launch when you hail it for pick up at your boat, especially during peak operations. Please don't keep other members waiting while you organize your belongings.
- One of the more important notes regarding launch operations:

Please don't engage in an argument with the operator over service unless immediate safety is the issue. Any complaint you may have about launch service or the operator can best be handled by the Launch Chairman at launch@hyc.org or in person.

- Off hours launch service - If you have reason for launch service during of-hours, you can make arrangements through one of the launch operators. This service is at the expense of the member and the fee should be negotiated with the operator.
- Off hours, emergency launch service - If in an emergency, a member finds him or herself in need of launch service, they can attempt to hail the City Island or Morris Yacht Club. They monitor VHF channel 72.
- 99% of this stuff is just common sense. Any questions, complaints or related observations should be directed to the Launch Chairman.
- Oh, and yes. Tipping the launch operators is acceptable!