PREPARING TO LAUNCH

With the boat now in the water the oars must be brought down from the shellhouse, the oarlocks opened, and the seat retainers taken off. Have one side get the oars and the other side undo the oarlocks and seat retainers. The command is: "Ports get the oars, Starboards undo the oarlocks." The coxswain should stay with the boat standing with one foot inside of a rigger to hold the boat. If it is windy have one of the rowers help to keep the boat from hitting the dock or from floating away from the dock.

Have each rower put his or her own oar in the oarlock. Then have the rowers stand along side their seat and command them to count down from bow when ready. Once the rowers are ready you will give the following commands to get into the boat.

"Outside oars across." (whichever side is facing the water slides oars out)
"One foot in,... and down."
"Hold for the coxswain." (cox gets in by stepping on coxswain seat)
"Tie in and count down from bow when ready."
"Lean away from the dock and walk it down." (make sure the coast is clear)

As the rowers clear the dock have them row or back in pairs (depending on which way the boat is facing), having each additional pair join in as they clear the dock. Row or back the boat until there is at least one full boat length of open water between the boat and dock and then weigh enough and execute your river turn if necessary. Always leave room for other boats to get off the dock.

II. DOCKING THE BOAT AND MOVING FROM THE WATER TO THE SHELLHOUSE

The most important thing about docking the shells is not to damage the equipment. It is always better to be safe than sorry, especially in windy conditions. When approaching the dock, (or docks) announce to any other coxswains which side of the dock you are taking to lessen any confusion. Approach the dock slowly rowing by either bow four or stern four with no pressure. If there is no wind aim for the dock so that the riggers line up with the edge of the dock. Stop rowing when you are about a half a length open water away from the end of the dock and glide in slowly. Let the crew know which side of the dock they are coming in on. Have the rowers lean away from the dock slightly so that the riggers clear the dock. Also have the rowers on the dock side lower their hands so that their blades clear the dock. Instruct the rowers to push away from the side of the dock with their hands and to then walk the boat down.

DOCKING IN WINDS

If possible always try to land on the windward side as it will be easier than landing on the leeward side. When approaching a dock in the wind it is best to row bow pair and stern pair as this will allow you to control both ends of the boat. If landing on the windward side allow yourself room for the wind to push you into the dock. Again it is better to be away from the
dock and let the wind push you in then it is to land on the dock. So aim away from the dock accordingly and depending on the strength of the wind. Remind the rowers to lean away and to push away with their hands from the dock as the wind pushes the boat towards the dock.

Landing on the leeward side of the dock when there is a strong wind requires great skill and will test the best coxswain's docking ability. Again, compensate for the wind. If the right side of the dock is the leeward side, then aim for the left side of the dock (or the middle of the dock) and approach the dock slowly. Hopefully, there will be somebody on the dock to help you land, however, if there is nobody to help you need to be able to land close enough so that the rowers can grab hold of the dock before the wind pushes the boat away from the dock. Again, row by bow pair and stern pair, light pressure. Have the bow pair keep rowing until they are almost to the end of the dock and then have them weigh enough and grab hold of the dock. Have the stern pair keep rowing with light pressure so that the wind does not push the stern away from the dock. Remind the rowers to lean away to clear the riggers on the dock and for the rowers on the dock side to lower their hands to clear their blades.

**TAKING THE BOAT OUT OF THE WATER**

Once the boat is stopped have the rowers untie, tighten their center pins and wingnuts, and to count down from bow when ready. At this time the coxswain gets out of the boat first and then gives the command "One foot back, up, and out." Have the side which brought the oars down fasten the seat retainers and oarlocks while the other side carries the oars to the boathouse.

The commands for taking the boat out of the water are:

- "Hands on the boat."
- "Up and over your heads... Ready, Up."
- "Opposite your rigger... and Down."
- "Walk it into the boathouse."

When taking the boat out of the water the coxswain should stand opposite the skag and ensure that the skag does not hit the dock by telling the rowers to lift straight up and not to pull the boat into the dock. The cox should also have his or her hand on the Gunwale pushing the boat away from the dock as the rowers lift.

**PUTTING THE BOAT AWAY**

Again the coxswain walks with the bow or stern (whichever end will go into the boathouse first) making sure that the rowers walk the boat into the boathouse straight and into the middle of the shellbay. Once the boat is inside the shellhouse and you are sure the bow or stern is not going to hit anything, you should walk back to the first bar of the rack your shell does on so you can line the mark on the gunwale of the boat with the rack. Have the crew slow the boat down and once the mark and rack line up have them weigh enough. Before putting the boat into the racks make sure the oarlocks are turned in so they won't hit the wall.