

BOATING SAFETY GUIDE

Weather

- Always check the marine weather forecast before heading out.

Engine and General

- Have your engine serviced.
- Make sure your trailer has a current Warrant of Fitness and registration.
- Change the petrol (if the boat has been sitting idle for more than six months replace the petrol).
- Check you have sufficient fuel for the journey and any unforeseen circumstances.
- Check oil levels.
- Check for any oil leaks.
- Check power steering fluid (if fitted).
- Check belts (if fitted).
- Check hoses (if fitted).
- Check spark plugs.
- Check fuel lines.
- Carry a sharp knife onboard.
- Carry alternative means of propulsion (ie oars, paddles, spare outboard).

Hull

- Carry out a visual inspection. Have any damage repaired.
- Check deck, windows and lights. Have any damage or leaks repaired.
- Check dinghy and liferaft (if applicable).
- Check the bung(s) are in and secure.

Electrical

- Check battery(s).
- Check, and if necessary replace, batteries for hand held radio, handheld GPS, torches etc.
- Check battery terminals for corrosion.
- Start up and check all gauges.
- Check all lighting (including navigation lights). Replace bulbs as required.

Safety Equipment

- Carry communication equipment (VHF radio, 406 EPIRB, mobile phone (in a waterproof bag). Do NOT rely on a mobile phone as your primary means of communication.
- Marine Flares on board and easily accessible.
- Check expiry date on flares (and if necessary replace them).
- Life jackets on board and easily accessible.
- Check lifejackets (one suitable lifejacket for every person on board).
- Inflatable lifejacket (has it been be serviced?).
- Fire extinguisher on board.
- Check the service date on the fire extinguisher.
- First aid kit.
- Navigational aids (up to date charts, compass, GPS).
- Carry a bailer.
- Carry a good torch/spot light.

Coastguard promotes Skipper Responsibility as the core principle to safe boating. At all times the individual in charge of the boat or craft must take all practical steps to keep their craft and those on board safe.