**BOATING CHECKLIST**

The following may be personalised for your own use whenever leaving your mooring:

Pre-Departure

**1.**Check weather report and tides/currents

**2.**File a float plan with someone you know. Tell them where you’re going and when you intend to return (and what to do if you don’t).

**3.**Identify non-swimmers

* Supply them with fitted life jackets while on the water

**4.**Identify second-in-command in case of skipper’s incapacitation

**5.**Identify the location and the operation of the following Coast Guard required safety items if fitted

* Life jackets – should be readily accessible
* Lifesling or throwable flotation – should be immediately accessible.
* Horn or sound-producing device as required
* Fire extinguishers and a brief description of their operation (P.A.S.S.)
* Flares or other Visual Distress Signals
* Check operation of Navigation Lights

**6.**Identify incremental recommended gear if fitted

* VHF Radio; turn on and select Channel 16. Ensure that one other person knows how to transmit a Mayday.
* Ensure that one anchor and rode is ready for immediate use
* Turn on GPS
* A length of nylon line for a towline, perhaps 75' x 1/2"

**7.**Describe engine shutdown technique

**8.**Check bilges; pump dry if water is present

**9.**Before engine is started

* If gasoline inboard: run blower for at least four minutes
* Check lubricating oil
* Check fuel level
* Make sure buzzers sound on engine panel

**10.**Once engine is started

* Check for signs of cooling water flow and check for oil pressure
* Attach kill switch lanyard if fitted

**11.**Disconnect shore power cable

**12.**Upon leaving the harbour, store a “go home” waypoint on the GPS

While on the water

**1.**Drink responsibly, especially if you are the skipper

**2.**Keep aware of the weather

* Use the weather channels on your VHF radio
* Watch for changes in wind speed and cloud formations

**3.**Know where the nearest harbour or protected anchorage is

**4.**Monitor fuel consumption and remaining range

* Use the “Three Thirds Rule”; one third outbound, one third inbound, one third reserve

**5.**Monitor VHF radio Channel 16 for emergency traffic

* Be prepared to lend assistance if you are the nearest vessel

**6.**Know the waters in which you are navigating

* Refer to local charts
* Stay within marked channels
* Be conscious of tides and currents

When you return to the dock

**1.**Boat is moored correctly with bow, stern, spring lines and fenders

* Snubbers, if used, are in place
* Lines are protected from chafe

**2.**Pump holding tank. Add holding tank treatment

**3.**Main battery switch is off

* Always-on loads (bilge pump, clocks) are on

**4.**Shore power cable is attached and protected from chafe

* Battery charger is on; inverter may need to be turned off

**5.**Logbook has been filled out, signed, and dated

**6.**Close your passage plan by calling person whom you originally contacted.