

# GOSFORD RSL FISHING CLUB

## Boat Check list for the Skipper

The skipper is responsible for going through this check sheet prior to departure.

Engine Hours prior to departure =

Skipper =

Crew =

Date =

Battery on charge when checking out = Port / Starboard

### Prior to leaving.

Check the weather forecast! Only go if you are comfortable with the forecast conditions – you are responsible for your own and your crew's safety!

Log book filled out - Log book is to be left at the boat shed.

Confirm that the boat is fuelled up – check last log book entry for fuel note and note which battery has been on the charge cycle. (Connect charger to other battery after the outing.)

Confirm that all safety equipment is on board.

1. Life jackets for all expected crew members
2. Fire Extinguisher
3. EPIRB
4. Flares
5. V-Sheet
6. Drinking water
7. Portable jump starter (yet to be procured)

Disconnect the battery charger

Turn on electricity (using the battery isolator switch)

Confirm batteries are charged by raising outboard skeg off the floor if it is resting on it. Tilt the motor up and engage the outboard motor support bracket.

Turn on Bilge pump for a moment to check operation.

Visually check that trailer tyres are inflated. On longer trips take the spare tyre along.

Lower the front jockey wheel as far as possible - reminder: The garage door is very low – the windscreen just fits underneath roller-door when the front jockey wheel is lowered!

Roll out the boat from the boat shed - Once the windscreen has cleared the roller door, the boat can be hooked up to the tow vehicle. Confirm that the trailer lights are working.

Lock the padlock through the tow-ball eye so that the trailer can't be unhooked from tow vehicle.

### At the boat ramp

Ensure bungs have been installed / install bungs.

Remove the tie down strap.

Disengage the motor support bracket and tilt the motor halfway down.

Install radio antennas (check in the side pockets) and turn on radios are working.

Turn on the Fish-finder / GPS combo unit to track your progress & find fish throughout the day.

Check your gear – tackle, ice, hat, sunnies, etc... make sure you have everything on board.

**Attention:** Always keep the safety chain attached to the boat when reversing the boat/trailer down or driving the up the boat ramp!!! The winch strap may slip, keep the boat on the trailer!

Back down the trailer, launch the boat.

### On the water

Prior to departure, give crew members an introduction to the safety equipment and emergency procedures in case you become incapacitated:

- Point out location of life-jackets, flares, V-sheet, first aid kit.
- Demonstrate starting and driving the boat – Neutral, reverse and forward.
- Quick intro to radio and GPS usage: How to call for help, What is your position?

Verify that the engine cooling system is working – check the tell-tale for water stream.

- If no water is pumping, the outlet may be clogged – try to feed in some 80lbs fishing line to loosen up any salt crystals or sand obstructions...
- Do not run the engine for more than 30 seconds without water pumping out... you may damage the engine. If you can't get water flow, do not go out! Return the boat on

Enjoy your day out. If venturing outside, log on with Marine Rescue. (CC 799)

### Returning to the boat ramp

Winch or drive the boat up to the post and attach the safety chain.

Drive away from the ramp to unload and prepare for the road trip:

- Remove bung plugs
- Tie down the boat with the safety strap.
- Remove Antennas and store in side-bunks.
- Turn off all electronics / fishfinder / radios.
- Clear any gear for the road trip as necessary.

### Returning the Boat

When returning the boat:

1. Fuel up the boat – keep the receipt for proof of purchase & log-book entry.
2. Thoroughly clean the boat inside and out – return it at a minimum as clean as you took it.
3. Flush the motor with fresh water for at least 2 minutes.
4. Hose down the trailer – pay attention to the brakes, hubs and springs.
5. Check the oil level in motor.
6. Remove all personal items from the boat
7. Note engine hours and fuel status on your trip log.
8. Trailer parts and motor nuts/bolts to be sprayed with-WD40 or similar.

Prior to backing the boat into the shed, disconnect the boat from the tow vehicle and lower the jockey wheel to the minimum height so that the windscreen clears the roller door. Push the boat into the shed by hand, as far to the left as possible.

