VESSEL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Vessel Name: ________________________________  Vessel Number: ________________________________
Operator or Captain: ________________________ Date: ________________________________

Equipment Checklist- Required

☐ Float plan submitted
☐ Boater education card
☐ Boat registration
☐ Compass and GPS
☐ Up to date charts of area
☐ PFD's- life jacket suitable for each person on board, readily accessible, in good condition and Coast Guard approved
☐ Throwable floatation aid immediately available
☐ Fire extinguisher properly mounted, fully charged, and in good condition
☐ Visual distress signals- current dates on flares, proper amount required
☐ Working horn or whistle
☐ First aid kit, Dan oxygen kit (required when diving)
☐ Anchors and line- adequate anchor for bottom and water depth
☐ Dewatering device- bilge pump operational, alternative bailing device available
☐ Alternate propulsion – paddles or oars
☐ Mooring lines and fenders in good condition
☐ VHF radio and cell phone
☐ Depth sounder, lead line, or sounding pole

The following items are recommended

☐ Tool kit and spare parts
☐ Flashlight
☐ Personal items- drinking water, sunscreen, prescription drugs, etc.
☐ Boarding ladder (or other means of boarding)

Vessel System Checklist

☐ Drain plug installed
☐ Fuel tank full
☐ Bilge free of water
☐ Engine oil level correct (4 stroke engine), oil tank full (2 stroke engine)
☐ Turn on battery switch if one is installed
☐ Battery fully charged
☐ Navigational gear operational
☐ Navigation lights working
☐ Steering and shift mechanisms in good condition
☐ Gauges- functional and reading properly
☐ Ventilation- power ventilation operable (blower) and natural ventilation cowls open and clear
☐ Bilge pump switch on auto
☐ VHF radio and antenna is operational (put radio on channel 16 and call for a radio check)
**Departure Checklist**

- Make sure each person has a properly fitted PFD and urge them to wear it. Youth 12 and under are required to wear a PFD.
- Show everyone location of PFD’s, fire extinguisher(s), visual distress signals, first aid kit, DAN O2 kit, and how to use them.
- Safety procedures for rough weather, man overboard, fire, and how to use VHF radio to signal for help.
- Take in all dock lines and fenders and keep them clear of propeller.
- Instruct everyone to stay seated and keep hands, arms, etc., inside the boat.
- Keep a lookout at all times for other boats, persons, and objects in water.
- Proceed slowly whenever leaving or returning to a dock.
- Know and abide by Manatee zones, and all no wake zones.
- Stay in channel when running.

**Post-use Checklist**

- Re-fuel boat.
- Wash / rinse boat and all gear.
- Pump bilge dry.
- Flush outboard motor(s).
- Turn off battery switch.
- Rinse off trailer.
- Report all safety, mechanical, electrical, cosmetic, or trailer problems with vessel supervisor.