

Pre-rental boat inspection

A one-page handoff checklist for boat-rental operators

BOAT / FLEET ID _____

DATE AND TIME _____

OPERATOR _____

RENTER _____

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Match wearable PFD count to everyone aboard; check condition and access.
- ☐ Check required gear for this vessel and location; confirm ready access.
- ☐ Show the renter where safety and emergency equipment is stored.

VESSEL CONDITION

- ☐ Walk hull, deck, propeller area, and hardware; note leaks, cracks, or loose parts.
- ☐ Check steering, controls, start/stop, bilge, and lights where fitted.
- ☐ Check for fuel odor or visible leaks; hold handoff for safety concerns.

EXISTING DAMAGE RECORD

- ☐ Photograph all sides and every known area of existing damage.
- ☐ Save brief notes, trip time, and renter acknowledgement.
- ☐ At return, repeat photos and note new damage or follow-up.

MAINTENANCE AND INSURANCE

- ☐ Review maintenance history and open defects before release.
- ☐ Confirm the policy covers rental activity and intended operator/use.

RENTER ORIENTATION

- ☐ Show PFDs, safety gear, controls, and emergency stop.
- ☐ Explain capacity, operating area, local restrictions, and return steps.
- ☐ Review the emergency plan; confirm the renter understands.

LIMITED STATE-LAW CHECKS

- ☐ WA: For rental engines 15 hp or higher, review and complete the applicable state checklist; signed copy travels with renter.
- ☐ TX: Inland-water party boats only: check operator license, annual inspection, minimum insurance, and capacity.
- ☐ NY: Give livery instruction; clean, drain, dry, or treat before public-water launch.

RETURN / FOLLOW-UP NOTES
