

# Marina Boat Rentals

## Best Practices

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- Boats being rented should be no more than 10 years old and in good maintenance and repair standing.
- Boats should be equipped with GPS tracking devices onboard, to allow for live tracking and recording of the vessel's position at all times during the rental.
- Boats should be equipped with a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, emergency marine signal kit, operable VHF radio and life jackets. The life jackets should be sufficient in number and appropriate in size for all persons onboard the vessel during the rental.
- Updated charts of the allowable operating area and basic Navigation Rules should be supplied to the boat renter. Marina personnel should further point out particular areas of any shallow or dangerous waters in the allowable operating area.
- Marina personnel should use a checklist to verify all safety equipment is onboard the vessel and in apparent good serviceable condition immediately prior to the rental.
- Marina personnel should inspect the rental boat with the renter at commencement and completion of the rental period in order to establish if any damage was sustained during the rental period. On completion of the pre-rental inspection, renter should sign off that the boat was free of apparent damage at that time.
- All boat renters must sign a boat rental agreement and liability waiver prior to boarding and operating the boat, which specifies that Admiralty Law would apply in the event of any suit. The agreement should specify:
  - The allowable operating area for the rental boat.
  - That the renter will be held responsible for any damages sustained by the rental boat during the rental period.
  - Operation of the boat under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited.
  - Weather/sea conditions in which the renter can operate the rental boat.

All boat renters should have a minimum of 2 years boat operating experience or be able to produce evidence of having completed an appropriate safe boating course.

- All persons who will be allowed to operate the rental boat should provide valid driver's licenses, and copies of same should be made by the marina.
- All boat renters should have a minimum of 2 years boat operating experience or be able to produce evidence of having completed an appropriate safe boating course.
- All boat renters should be required to go on a brief checkout ride with marina personnel in order to demonstrate that they are able to safely operate the boat.
- Marina personnel are to ensure that at least one person, who will be onboard the vessel, has a working cell phone (and marina phone number) and provide weather tight bag in which the phone may be kept.
- Prior to rental, marina personnel to ensure that boat renter is aware of the maximum allowable persons onboard the rental boat, as well as point out any unique operational characteristics of the boat.

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