PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Another way you can assure a good time while operating your vessel is to perform a pre-departure check.

☐ Check the weather forecast for the area and timeframe during which you will be boating.

☐ Make sure the steering and throttle controls are operating properly.

☐ Check that all lights are working properly.

☐ Check for any fuel leaks from the tank, fuel lines, and carburetor.

☐ Check the engine compartment for oil leaks.

☐ Check hose connections for leaks or cracks, and make sure hose clamps are tight.

☐ Drain all water from the engine compartment, and be sure the bilge plug is replaced and secure.

☐ Make sure you have enough fuel or know where you can refuel.

☐ Check to be sure you have a fully charged engine battery and fire extinguishers.

☐ If so equipped, make sure the engine cut-off switch and wrist lanyard are in good order.

☐ Make sure that you have the required number of PFDs and that they are in good condition.

☐ Leave a float plan with a reliable friend or relative.