

## **PRE-DEPARTURE CHECK LIST**

### **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**

- At least one MPA approved device per passenger on board.
- An additional life buoy device is required for every four passenger onboard
- Explain the location and use of all PFDs to passengers and crew that may be new to the vessel.

### **Sound Producing Devices (Whistle)**

- Must have a capable horn
- If a portable air horn, have a spare can of air or an alternate device.

### **Lights and Shapes**

- All navigation lights as required.
- Instrumental lights working.
- If you intend to engage in an activity that requires a flag such as scuba diving, have it ready onboard
- Flashlight on-board.

### **Distress Signals**

- Accessible flares, day signals, etc., stored in a dry location.
- Carry signals at all times even if not required by the MPA
- Inform the crew and passengers of their location and their use.

### **Tools and Spares**

- Basic tool box on-board.
- Box of spares aboard, e.g., fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through hull plugs, etc.

### **Ventilation**

- On any powered vessel or auxiliary powered sailboat, or vessels using LPG for cooking or heat, check that all interior spaces are well ventilated before departure.
- If fuel smells are detected before ventilating, check after running the blowers for several minutes before starting.
- If odor persists, stop and look for the source of the leak.

### **Fire Extinguishers**

- Accessible fire extinguisher. Do you have at least those required by MPA?
- Check to be sure mounts are secure and functional before departure.
- Take the time to point out locations to passengers and crew.

### **Fuel and Oil**

- Are your tanks topped-off?
- If not, have enough fuel to provide a reasonable margin of safety for your return.
- Check the engine oil and coolant level.

### **Bilges**

- Check to be sure bilges are reasonably dry and that pumps are not running excessively.

Clean up any spilled oil or waste in bilges so as to prevent overboard discharge.

**Battery Care**

If you have a dual charging system, is the selector switch in the proper position?

Is the power on to the entire vessel?

Spare batteries for accessories such as a handheld radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid, etc.

If they are rechargeable, are they charged?

**Weather Forecast**

Did you check the weather forecast?

Radio on board to receive weather updates.

**Docking and Anchoring**

At least one anchor set up and bent-on to your anchor line.

Two or three extra dock lines in case of unusual conditions dockside.

Visually inspect the lines you use for chafe or wear.

At least two fenders on-board for docking or towing if required.

**Documentation**

Have the ship's papers, sailing permit, port clearance etc. on board.

Have the chart or charts for the area you intend to cruise in, regardless of your level of local knowledge.