



# PARADISE Boat Rentals

## Captain's Briefing & Boat Rental Instructions

**239-645-4217**



**PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE ENTIRE  
CONTENT**

**IN THIS INFORMATION BOOKLET.**









**IT IS PART OF YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT AND  
IMPORTANT TO YOUR SAFETY AND  
THE SAFETY OF YOUR PASSENGERS !**



## BOAT RENTAL INSTRUCTIONS

As Captain of your Rental Boat you must adhere to the following:

### BOAT OPERATION

- Be aware that wide parts of Southwest Florida waterways are swamp and the waters are very shallow. In addition, there are lots of rocks, sand- and oyster bars below the water line that can cause damage to the propeller
- On the PARADISE sea chart, “**Deeper**” water is marked in **DARK BLUE**, shallow water in **LIGHT BLUE**, **extremely shallow water in WHITE**, sand- and oyster bars in **GREEN**.
- Avoid shallow water. **STAY IN MARKED CHANNELS ONLY. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE**, in particular damaged propellers, lower units, outdrives and engines. Repairs to be priced at posted Paradise Boat Rentals rates.
- The Navigational Marker System Rule is: **RED, RIGHT, RETURN**. Keep the **RED** markers on your **RIGHT** and the **GREEN**  ers on your **left** when returning from the Gulf to your home port. 
- *The Intracoastal Waterway* is marked with **GREEN** markers with a yellow square  or **RED** markers  yellow triangle and returns to the North / West, going to its next home port in Tampa. When you are returning from the Gulf and enter the Intracoastal Waterway going back to our marina, markers will switch  'ker 101 and **GREEN** Intracoastal Waterway markers will be on your right until you leave the Intracoastal Waterway again.
- Marinas are marked on the PARADISE sea chart with a , restaurants with a  and destinations with a 

- **Observe the NO-WAKE zones wherever posted, in *all canals*, and within 500 feet of any shoreline or dock. Idle zones are marked with a large white sign with a red circle. You are responsible for any damage caused by your wake.**
- **Once the Boat has been turned over to the renter and/or he has signed the rental agreement and/ or turnover certificate, the condition and the safety of all passengers and members of the renter's rental party are the sole responsibility of the renter.**
- Should you notice any pre-existing damage to the Boat it must be brought to the attention of PARADISE BOAT RENTALS and designated on the turnover certificate, otherwise you will be responsible for any and all damages when the Boat is returned.
- Sit only on seats provided. Do not sit on seat-backs or on edge (gunnel) of the Boat or engine hatch. Do not ride with legs or arms hanging over the bow or sides. Operation of the Boat must comply with any warning labels posted on the vessel.
- **All children under 6 years of age must wear life jackets at all times while on the Boat.**
- **For all children 6 years and older an appropriate life jacket must be on board.**
- Do not operate the vessel in unsafe conditions – immediately return to safe waters or our marina if necessary.
- **DO NOT BEACH THE BOAT AT ANY TIME.** When going ashore, anchor Boat with bow into the waves and wade ashore. **Anchor at least 25 yards from any beach**
- Make sure engine is SHUT OFF before climbing into or out of Boat.
- Boat must be returned no later than the time in your rental agreement. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Late returns are billed at \$ 100.00/hour.

- Renter agrees to pay for used fuel. You can either fill up your boat at any marina (marine-grade fuel w/ min. 90 Octane) or you can pay for the fuel you used when you return to our marina (current daily pump price).
- No refunds for excess fuel.
- Any Boat not performing satisfactorily must be reported *immediately*. Continued use may result in severe damage to the engine and will result in full charges for the contracted rental. The renter will be held responsible.
- Rental Boats are not to be used to tow other boats, for commercial purposes or any illegal activity.
- Do **NOT** tow other boats if they are stuck in shallow water or on a sand bar.
- Do not exceed the load or capacity rating of the Boat as stated on the Rental Agreement and on the Boat's rating plate.
- The Boat operator is the DESIGNATED DRIVER as set forth on the Rental Agreement. The Boat operator shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while operating the Boat.
- Operation time of the boat is during day light hours only. Operation of the boat during night time or darkness is not permitted.
- Navigation limits are from Marco Island in the South to Gasparilla Island in the North, up to no more than 3 miles off-shore.

## **ENGINE OPERATION:**

- Make sure, the engine's lower unit and propeller are completely in the water before starting the engine.
- Turn ignition key switch to start the motor.
- Make sure the ignition "safety lanyard" is properly engaged. If the engine stalls or will not start, check if the safety lanyard is properly engaged.
- Make sure the throttle control handle is in the neutral position or the throttle control button is pushed before starting the engine.
- **If the warning alarm sounds, turn engine off IMMEDIATELY, anchor the boat and call Paradise Boat Rentals to determine the problem before restarting.**
- **Do not under any circumstances operate the boat with an alarm sounding!**

## **IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:**

- Do not leave the Boat unattended. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOAT UNTIL IT IS RETURNED TO OUR LOCATION!**
- Anchor the Boat immediately if a problem occurs or you are in danger. Use any sound producing device, signal flares, or wave both arms back and forth, to signal other Boats for assistance.
- Contact PARADISE BOAT RENTALS immediately for further instructions.
- **Use your cell phone to contact Coast Guard Ft. Myers: 239-463-5754 or the Police: 911 in case of an emergency**

- All towing costs have to be paid by Renter unless PARADISE BOAT RENTALS has made arrangements for towing.
- PARADISE BOAT RENTALS will not reimburse any towing or repair costs unless PARADISE BOAT RENTALS has ordered them.

**NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Renter(s) hereby acknowledges custody of the boat and equipment described above in good condition, and agrees to return the boat to PARADISE BOAT RENTALS on or before the time on the Agreement, in the same condition, ordinary wear and tear excluded.
- Renter(s) shall promptly report any malfunction or break-down to PARADISE BOAT RENTALS.
- Renter(s) shall promptly report any and all accidents with the Boat, including any injuries to any persons.
- Any citations for boating violations shall be immediately reported to PARADISE BOAT RENTALS.
- In case of theft or loss, Renter(s) shall be responsible for the replacement value of the Boat and equipment.
- In case of abuse or damage, Renter(s) shall be responsible for repair or replacement.
- **All charges for which the Renter is responsible shall be deducted from the Security Deposit / Credit Card unless paid in cash by the Renter at the time the Boat is returned to PARADISE BOAT RENTALS.**



## Boating Rules & Safety Tips I

### Waterway Markers (Day Markers), Regular Channels



Green Markers have even numbers and are shaped like a triangle.  
Red Markers have odd numbers and are shaped like a square



A green no. 1 marker symbolizes the entrance to a channel from the waterway. As you are returning to land (your home port), the numbers on the markers are going to be increasing. **Keep the Red Markers to your right and the Green Markers to your left.**

**RED - RIGHT - RETURN !**

### Markers of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW)



Red Intracoastal Waterway Markers carry an additional orange triangle.  
Green Intracoastal Waterway Markers carry an additional orange square.



The Intracoastal Waterway returns to the North / West (going to its next home port in Tampa)

**Keep the Red ICW Markers to your right when you are going North/West, towards Sanibel & Captiva**

**Keep the Green ICW Markers to your right when you are going South/ East (returning to our marina)**

**RED - RIGHT - NORTH / WEST!**

**(Red arrow on sea chart is return direction of ICW to its home port in Tampa)**



## Operator's Responsibilities

- Know your position and know where you are going.
- Maintain a safe speed at all times to avoid collision.
- Keep an eye out for changing weather conditions, and act accordingly.
- Maintain a clear, unobstructed view forward at all times. "Scan the water back and forth; avoid "tunnel" vision. Most boating collisions are caused by inattention.
- Keep passengers seated (Do not stand up while boat is moving!).
- Fasten gear to prevent shifting.
- Make sure that you have enough fuel on board (The fuel gauge on a boat is not as accurate as the one in a car!)
- Fill up the boats fuel tank every time before you take out the boat.
- Make sure water depth is minimum 3 ft (1.2 meters).
- **Operate your boat in marked channels and waterways only.**

## Propeller Blade Warning

Never forget the danger that boat propellers can inflict to persons in the water. Remember to shut off your engine when approaching swimmers or using the swim ladder.



## Boating Rules & Safety Tips II

### Weather

**Weather can change rapidly and you should continually keep a “weather eye” out.**

Here are a few signs you can look for:

- Watch for cloud build up, especially rapid vertically rising clouds.
- Sudden drop in temperature.
- Sudden change in wind direction and / or speed.

### What to do in severe weather:

- Reduce speed, but keep just enough power to maintain headway.
- Put on your Life Jackets.
- Turn on navigation lights
- **Do not necessarily try to reach your home port, most of the time it’s safer to seek shelter in one of the marinas or restaurants close by.**
- Head to nearest shore that is safe to approach, if possible.
- Head bow of the boat into the waves at about a 45-degree angle.
- **Keep bilges free of water (Run bilge pump manually if necessary)**
- Seat passengers on bottom of boat near center line.
- Anchor the boat if necessary.
- **Call the Coast Guard with your cell phone (239) 463-5754 or call 911 in case there is an emergency.**

# Anchoring

## Always anchor from the bow!

- Secure the anchor line to the bow cleat. (Remember: It is not attached to the boat!)
- Always anchor with a long anchor line - minimum 60 feet (20 meters)!
- Bring the bow of the vessel into the wind or current.
- When you get to the spot you want to anchor, place the engine in neutral (**Don't shut it off!**)
- Remember that you want the boat to stay in **at least waist deep water (4 feet, 1.2 meters), especially when the tide goes out!**
- When the boat comes to a stop, slowly lower the anchor under the bow rail. Do not throw the anchor over, as it will tend to entangle the anchor.
- When all anchor line (5x depth of water) has been let out, back down on the anchor with engine in idle reverse to help set the anchor.
- Only when anchor is firmly set, turn off the engine and trim the outdrive all the way up.
- Use reference points (landmarks) in relation to the boat to make sure you are not drifting.
- Check these points frequently.

**Do not anchor by the Stern!**

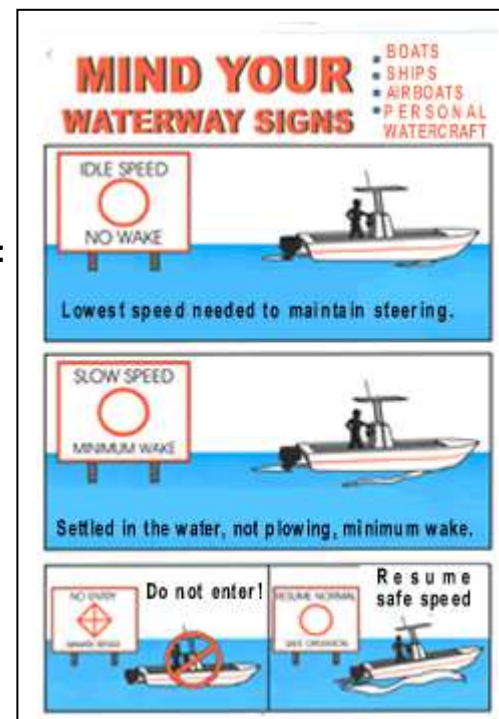
**Do not beach the boat at any time!**

## Waterway Signs - Speed Zones

The following areas are hereby designated as areas of “Regulated Water Activity” and limits boats to IDLE SPEED:

- All waters within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the shoreline or beach
- Whether or not so designated with appropriate signs
- All Canals and Marinas!!

**Boaters are always responsible for their wake!**



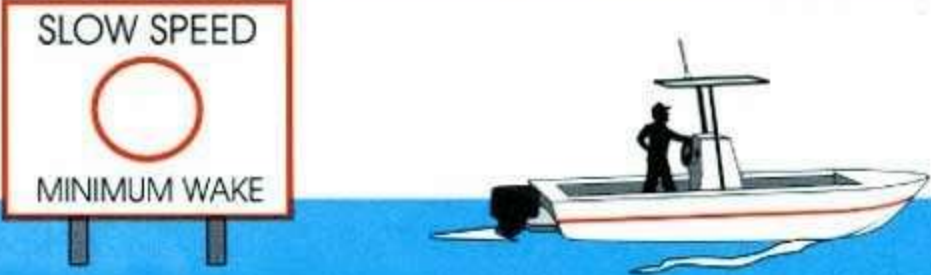
# MIND YOUR WATERWAY SIGNS

- BOATS
- SHIPS
- AIRBOATS
- PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



The sign is rectangular with a red border. It contains the text "IDLE SPEED" at the top, a red circle in the center, and "NO WAKE" at the bottom. To the right is an illustration of a white motorboat with a person on board, moving slowly through blue water with minimal wake.

**Lowest speed needed to maintain steering**



The sign is rectangular with a red border. It contains the text "SLOW SPEED" at the top, a red circle in the center, and "MINIMUM WAKE" at the bottom. To the right is an illustration of a white motorboat with a person on board, moving through blue water with a small, settled wake.

**Settled in the water, not plowing, minimum wake**



The left panel shows a sign with a red border, a diamond shape with a red cross inside, and the text "NO ENTRY" above and "MANATEE REFUGE" below. A red circle with a diagonal slash is superimposed over a boat illustration. Below the sign is the text "Do not enter".

The right panel shows a sign with a red border, a red circle in the center, and the text "RESUME NORMAL" above and "SAFE OPERATION" below. A boat illustration is shown to the right. Below the sign is the text "Resume safe speed".

**In an Emergency:**

Call: 1-888-404-3922  
Mobile: \*FWC  
VHF Radio: Channel 16



**ATTENTION !**

**Absolutely no speeding in our canal  
or any other canal.**

**Idle speed, absolutely **NO WAKE.****

**Max. 25 mph as soon as you reach  
the Intracoastal Waterway.**

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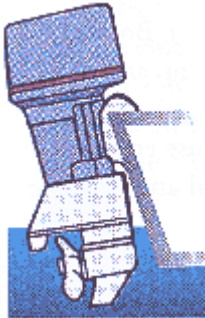


## A FEW WORDS IN REGARD TO YOUR BOAT'S ELECTRONICS...

- **The speedometers** on most of the boats here in the area (and also on our boats) do not work properly. The simple reason is, that due to extremely shallow water and a sandy sea bottom, the low-pressure sensor on the outdrive of the engine constantly gets clogged up with sand.
- **Therefore please use the GPS's speedometer only.**
- Similar applies to your **depth finder**. The extremely shallow water, the sandy sea bottom with lots of rocks and sea grass prevent your depth finder from giving you an accurate reading.
- The transducer of your depth finder is mounted to the transom of your boat. Climbing in and out of your boat on the swim ladder, cruising in shallow water, driving you boat onto a boat lift and many more issues can dislocate the transducer of your depth finder. Even the slightest dislocation causes the transducer to send none or false signals to you depth finder and it will show inaccurate or no readings.
- Stay within the marked water ways to avoid running aground.
- Use common sense and slow down if you think you need to leave the marked water ways.
- To be on the safe side, always use your sea chart to check the depth of the waters you're in.



## Trimming your Outboard Engine

Our boats come equipped with power trim which raises or lowers the drive unit. In this case the term "trim" refers to the running position of the engine drive unit. Although most people know that the trimming movement raises and lowers the bow, many are unaware that it also can effect steering and performance. When you trim your drive unit either "in" or "out" you may feel a pull on the steering wheel either to the right or left. If the steering pull grows beyond a slight pull, an inadvertent release of the wheel can cause the boat to go into a sharp turn and passengers could be thrown around, or even out of, the boat. Be sure to keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.

	<p><b>Trimming In (Down)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowers the bow</li> <li>• Results in quicker planing, especially with a heavy load</li> <li>• Improves ride in choppy water</li> <li>• Increases steering torque or pull to the right</li> <li>• Reduces clearance in shallow water</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Neutral Trimming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowers the bow</li> <li>• Normally results in greater efficiency. (Note that the propeller shaft, which connects the propeller to the drive shaft, is parallel to the surface of the water.)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Trimming Out (Up)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifts the bow</li> <li>• Increases top speed</li> <li>• Increases clearance in shallow waters</li> <li>• Increases steering torque or pull to the left</li> <li>• In excess, causes the boat to bounce</li> </ul>

# Marine & Navigation apps for Smart Phones



**Marinalife**, by EarthNC, **Price: free**, iPhone & iPad only



**Marine Charts Lite**, by EarthNC **Price: free**, android phones only



**Navionics Marine & Lakes U.S.A.** **Price: \$10**, iPhone & iPad, android phones



**The Weather Channel**, **Price: free**, iPhone & iPad, android phones



**My Lightning Tracker**, **Price: free**, iPhone & iPad, android phones



**NOAA Weather Radar**, **Price: free**, iPhone & iPad, android phones



**Lee County Water Ways** **Price: free**, iPhone & iPad, android phones



## Quick fixes if something breaks on your boat

**PROBLEM:** Engine does not start

**SOLUTION:** Check, if safety lanyard is properly attached, throttle control handle is in the neutral position & battery switch is in the "ALL" position.



**PROBLEM:** Stereo and or GPS/ depth finder does not work

**SOLUTION:** Turn main power switch & Stereo/ACC switch on dashboard on



**PROBLEM:** GPS/ depth finder is not working properly

**SOLUTION:** Turn GPS unit off (hold power button for 5 seconds)

Turn GPS unit on (press power button once)





3013 Del Prado Blvd S, Cape Coral, FL 33904, ☎ 239-645-4217

**FOR ANY ISSUES REGARDING YOUR RENTAL BOAT CALL  
THE FOLLOWING PHONE NUMBER**

**☎ 239-645-4217**

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

**Coast Guard: 239- 463-5754**

**Police: 911**