Safely Managed and Responsible Team (S.M.A.R.T.)

Use of Boats and Watercraft

### SOME FACTORS TO CONSIDER
- Poor weather conditions (fog, wind, icing, etc.)
- Mechanical failure
- Fire/Explosion
- Slips, Trips and Falls, Falls overboard
- Hypothermia/Drowning/Immersed in cold water
- Improper cargo storage or Overloading
- Loss of cargo in deep water
- Improper refuelling techniques
- Isolation
- Strains, sprains
- Injury from moving equipment
- Collisions with partially submersed objects/animals
- Capsizing/Sinking

### APPLICABLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT
- Extreme weather clothing
- Fire extinguishers/Tools, Spill kits, signal devices
- Survival gear
- Emergency locater transmitter
- Personal floatation device (PFD)
- Communication devices, Radio, Spot, Satellite and Cell phones
- Navigation systems GPS, Sounders Marine Radio, Radar
- Hearing protection

### PRIOR TO DEPARTURE (PLAN)

Confirm carrier competency, crew training, and vessel inspection and certification meets or exceeds Canada Shipping Act, Small Vessel requirements and Small Vessel Compliance Program.

Inspect personal survival gear and communication equipment. Survival gear should include emergency rations, water proof fire starters, signalling tools, shelter etc.

Test all electronics, communications, navigation, location beacons. Ensure you have alternative navigations systems (charts, compass binoculars).

Based on location and risk, determine frequency of monitoring check-ins and pre plan route and arrange monitoring as appropriate given risk. Update this for any changes. Ensure all team members are aware of the strategy.

Check weather and water course conditions while planning and immediately prior to departure. Ensure weather, craft and route are compatible.

Use appropriate/suitable charter vessels where waters or conditions are challenging.

Ensure appropriate and adequate number of PFDs and life rafts are on board and in good working condition.

Ensure you and others are familiar with emergency response gear and procedures on board, life rafts and operation, PFDs location and use, communication and navigation systems and use.

Ensure you have enough fuel (i.e. 1/3 to go 1/3 to return and 1/3 in reserve).

Observe craft in water, once loaded for listing and weight distribution. Ensure craft is not overloaded.

Vent engine and storage compartments prior to ignition. Confirm no fuel or oils in bilge or storage areas.

Note and report to crew any smells or signs of fuel, oil to crew.

If using FLNRO staff as crew, ensure they are familiar with the equipment being used for various tasks (this includes ensuring the equipment is good working order e.g. winches, anchors, nets etc. Explain the hazards and how to control them!)

If using FLNRO staff as crew, ensure crew is familiar with towing, trailering, loading and offloading a boat, (be aware of variable conditions at boat ramps, or beach sites). Explain the hazards and how to control them!

Secure cargo, use lines to temporarily secure cargo when loading and unloading in the event something maybe dropped it can be retrieved with line attached.
**ON THE VESSEL AND UNDERWAY (DO)**

Do not operate boats if you are not trained and certified in accordance with the Canada Shipping Act and regulations for commercial and/or passenger vessels. You must be authorized for the vessel to be operated and have documented competency checks on record. *(Refer to SMS Training Summary)* and *Small Vessel Operators Proficiency Training*

Do not assist in operation of vessel (handling lines, anchors etc.) unless you have been trained made aware of hazards and are wearing your PFD. Training maybe provided by crew.

Ensure commercial carriers provide safety briefing, prior to getting underway.

Do not operate craft in difficult conditions, strong current, winds tides heavy seas unless competent to do so.

Do not maintain boats or inspect them unless you are trained to do so.

Do not use a vessel that is not properly equipped, inspected and operated by qualified staff.

Cancel or change work plan if you have safety concerns. All staff must be comfortable with work plan.

Respect the concerns of others.

Wear your PFD in open craft, high winds, rough water, strong current (rivers), when at risk of falling from craft or functioning as crew!

Do not smoke on board unless in designated location as specified by the captain.

The crew is in charge while underway and during all emergencies, listen follow the instructions of the crew. Stay with boat in emergencies, if safe and practical as it will be more easily found.

Ensure the FLNR monitoring station is aware of any route changes, all situation changes, emergencies and assistance being rendered and by whom.

If not provided, request an orientation and safety briefing to the craft prior to departure to provide awareness of the following:

- location of the fire extinguishers
- location and number of flotation devices
- location and launching process of life rafts and the life ring
- number of distress signals and method of transmission, everyone should know how to use these systems
- be aware of the recommended routes for entry and departure from the boat
- ensure captain of craft has the travel plan and is aware of required check in frequencies and procedures for FLNRO staff.

Boat operators and crew will conduct an appropriate pre-trip inspection prior to departure.

Arrange cargo in a manner to provide maximum stability related to the center of gravity and do not overload or destabilize the craft.

Be mindful of loads and weight shift in small craft including your own movement.

When traveling on rivers avoid rapids and obstacles. Portage hazardous conditions.

When traveling, have sufficient charts and related information available to navigate safely.

Be mindful of posture on long voyages, take breaks stretch and reposition yourself.

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**ON THE VESSEL AND UNDERWAY (DO)**

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**MONITOR/INSPECT (CHECK)**

Monitor weather, water conditions.
Monitor vessel performance.
Monitor crew performance.
Ensure staff monitoring system is current on your status and position.

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**IMPROVE/CORRECT (ACT)**

Report any concerns to your supervisor and/or vessel operator/crew.
Terminate any trip or portion if unsafe or uncomfortable with the hazards or risk. It’s your right!
Provide feedback for captain or vessel pilot.
Provide charter vessel feedback for contract evaluation.
Report incidents in accordance with Canada Shipping Act and regulations.