**"IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU RENT A BOAT FROM COCOS BOAT RENTALS":**

Coco’s Boat Rentals only operate in the Marathon Area.

Cocos Boats are equipped with all the USCG required safety gear and additional gear you may use during your rental. (Life jackets, VHF Radio, Garmin GPS, flare kit, throw cushions, fire extinguisher, dive flag, fenders, dock lines, boat hook, etc.)

**Some important tips for a safe and enjoyable days on the water:**

Make a little check list on the boat to make sure everything is in working condition before you leave your dock every day.

* Check bilge pumps are working correctly.
* Live well pump is working.
* Engine is “peeing” correctly. Lights are working.
* Boat has enough fuel.
* GPS is working and reading appropriate depth.
* Anchor is properly tied off Bilge compartments are clean.

If you run into any problem, call Coco’s boat rentals.

You must check the weather every day, high and low tides (3 to 4ft difference every 6 hours), and wind directions. (If North winds, the ocean is better; If South winds, the Bayside is better; East or West winds means both sides of the island will be the same.)

Understanding tides is important if you will be boating in Marathon, Florida Keys. Marathon tides can make or break a fun day of boating. You really need to understand how the tides work, and how quickly they can change, before setting off to boat around Marathon. Boaters need to follow the tide charts very closely. Some man-made waterways nearly dry up at low tide and there are many shoals surrounding the island as well. If you are traveling in a boat with a deep hull, this could mean becoming grounded, and having to wait many hours in the baking hot sun for the next high tide or you may need to call Sea Tow at additional costs for assistance.

When nearshore around the mangrove trees it is very easy to see if the tide is high or low based on the amount of the roots exposed from the water level. Around the mangroves you will also be able to smell if it is low tide as the exposed root system emits a sulfur smell.

<https://tides.mobilegeographics.com/locations/3928.html>

Seas conditions will affect the fuel efficiency of a planning-hull boat. Rough conditions — leading to pounding or plunging or forcing the vessel to slow and come off plane — can rapidly decrease fuel efficiency. Planning your trip to take advantage of tides, currents, and predicted winds can save fuel and money.

**Use forecasts** (App : Windfinder and Tides near me), charts, and tide books to plan routes and determine when conditions will minimize fuel usage. Remember also that currents and tides will affect the performance of your boat in different ways. Riding strong currents with speed of 2 /3 knots or avoiding adverse currents can save you 25 to 50% of fuel consumption at a cruising speed of 6 knots. Also, trolling can increase the fuel consumption if you go against winds and current.

You must be very careful with shallow waters (always follow the markers) and sandbars. Remember: "Red Right Return".

Prop damage: Continuing to use a prop that is damaged can not only cause the boat to perform poorly, it can increase fuel consumption and even damage the engine and transmission. Call Coco’s Boat rentals as soon as you have an incident.

Sucking weeds, debris, mud, or sand can cause your engine to overheat, and sometimes more serious problems. Be sure to avoid shallow and grassy areas.

**Some tips about seaweed:**

When you hit some, it will wrap around the outboard's lower unit and screw up the water flow to the prop. Without a clean flow, the prop will cavitate- so the engine suddenly revs up and you lose thrust. From the captain's perspective, it's hard to distinguish from the slipping caused by a damaged prop hub and slipping caused by weeds.

If you find yourself with weeds wrapped around the prop: A quick burst of reverse will usually clear things up, or you will have to tilt the engine up and remove the weeds out of the prop by hand. If you overheat your engine, alarm go off and you lose trust, engine go in guardian mode: stop the boat, wait for approx. 10 to 15minutes until engine cool off and make sure is peeing correctly after that.

**Lobster or crab buoys and rope**:

there’s a lot of buoys on the ocean/bay in different times of the year. You must avoid all the lobster or crab traps (buoys), because if the line gets stuck in your prop, you could end up with a spun hub or even damage the prop or gear case (without even hitting anything).

Fishing lines around your prop: If you get fishing Lines around your prop when fishing or trolling...as soon as you get to your place or come back to our marina after your daily rental, PLEASE inform Cocos to go remove the lines stuck on the propeller. If lines stay there, salt water can get into the lower unit and damage the gears. It is not a problem for Coco's to go and remove the fishing lines, just let us know as soon as possible.

Following the channel markers, trim your outboard up and keep an eye out for any changes in the environment while you're operating your boat. This is the best way of avoiding potential damage to the cooling components of your outboard and the prop and skeg, including the lower unit. ⭐⭐When in doubt about the depth, slow down and idle the engine and check your depth finder. Make sure the bow of the boat is down and the motor is trimmed or tilted up.

If you run into a sea grass flat, you will be leaving a sediment trail behind your boat, making the water murky and probably cutting sea grass roots. Stop immediately and tilt your engine up. Pole or push the boat into deeper water. Remember this: color of the water can tell you!

*↔ “****The BLUES”*** *are safe water. "Blue, blue, go on through." Greens mean it's starting to shoal, but still safe for all but large ships. ⚃"Green, green, nice and clean." The browns are trouble-don't go there.*

**"*Brown,*** *brown, run aground." \*CAUTION! Brown water\* Don't go through any brown colored water; find might be present. your way around brown water! Brown color means that the water is too shallow and that coral formations.*

Running aground is dangerous for you and your boat, and it will damage our very sensitive coral reefs. White water, as in gin clear, is most confusing of all. It marks a sand bottom that might be inches or fathoms deep.

*"****White, white****, it just might..." \*CAUTION! White water\*. The water around sand bars will appear white. Sand bars are often much shallower than they appear, and any boat will run aground there. Steer your way around sand bars.*

**End of the day:**

Make sure you don’t leave any switch on in the boat after you finish your day (especially the bilge, live well, GPS, stereo, lights, etc.) because you will distress or drain your battery. This could make the automatic bilge pump stop working and lead to more serious issues like a sinking boat. Boats carry automatic pumps. You don’t have to turn on the switch unless the automatic is not working, and you think the boat is carrying too much water. You will burn up the pump if you keep the switch on. If battery cannot charge anymore because of this, you will assume the cost of a new battery. So, make sure you turn off all your switches, especially your live well and bilge pumps.

It is also important not to plug the scuppers of the boat. Bilges with trash, seaweed, sand, mud, plastic bags, fish scales, water or beer cap, fishing sinkers, dead shrimps etc. will damage your pumps.

Always check your automatic bilge pump is in working condition and call Coco's immediately if something is not working properly or has stopped working.

"**IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM OR NEED INFORMATION, ADVICE, OR YOU EXPERIENCE MALFUNCTION OR DAMAGE TO THE CRAFT YOU HAVE RENTED, YOU MUST CALL COCO'S BOAT RENTALS RIGHT AWAY.**

**WE WILL HELP YOU AND/OR ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS OR REPAIR ANY MALFUNCTION OR SITUATION WITH THE VESSEL"**

**THANK YOU FOR RENTING WITH US!! SEE YOU IN Y0UR NEXT VACATION.**

**COCOS BOAT RENTALS**