

**the  
Fishing  
Coaches**

A public nonprofit group



FishingCoaches.org

**“Extra Credit:”  
Reminder List (*Tailorable*) –  
When Using A *Boat***




## Instructions:

1. **Not intended to be used 'as-is'!**
2. **Members: *download* Reminder List.**
3. **Then use your *word-processor* to *remove* every item that's not:**
  - a. **Important for you, or**
  - b. **Somewhat hard for you to remember.**
4. **Add items, if you choose.**
5. **You might end up with only 2 (or more?) pages.**

- That spot still open for fishing?  
[Click for Washington Regulations](#) [Click for BC Regulations](#)  
[Click for Oregon Regulations](#) [Click for Idaho Regulations](#)
- Too icy for trailer, or launching?
- Trailer (+ vehicle) lights actually work, after connected?
- Buy bait?

## If Overnight Trip



- Ferry schedule OK?  
[Click for Washington Ferries](#), or 1-800-843-3779.  
[Click for British Columbia Ferries](#), or 1-888-724-5223 within BC (or 604-444-2890 from outside province.)
- Clothing for all days?
- Pillows?
- Tent? Hammer for pegs.
- Boat-battery charger(s)?
- Call for camping reservations? 
- Where keep bait during trip (like OVERNIGHT, for 2 days?)  
Bring cooler?
- Mattresses. Sleeping bags.
- Where get main motor gas during trip? Where get kicker-motor gas during trip?
- Food for all days?
- Dock reservations?
- Money (U.S. & Canadian?)?
- Extra ice for bait?
- Extra boat/kicker gas?
- Backup boat motor oil?

## Each Trip




- Got all equipment mentioned on TFC's Gameplan?



- Fish scents.
- Boat's key!
- Paper towels.
- Flares.
- Downriggers?
- Fishing licenses in boat. Are current?
- Hand water pump.
- Tool kit.

## If Anchoring

- Anchor.
- Rope, chain, 2 shackles, twist-ties to keep shackles from falling out.
- Anchor's buoy + anchor retriever?
-  TWO anchors *if* don't want boat to spin while fishing slow water.
- If break-away "rock anchor": twist-ties.
- If release to chase fish (or other reasons:) pig-tail buoys.
- If dangerous current: knife to cut rope quickly.

- Extra spark-plugs.
- Boat paddles/oars.
- Fill with oil.
- One water bottle/person/day?
- Downrigger balls + 2 extras.
- Big light (if got stuck after dark.)
- Trailer tires' air pressure?
- Mooring ropes.
- Rod holders.
- New lures sharpened?
- Polarized sunglasses, each person.
- A hat each person.
- Sun screen lotion.





## Itinerary Page

Where fishing: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notify Coast Guard/rescue if you haven't heard from us by this deadline (even allowing for misc. (& weather) delays):

\_\_\_\_\_ (day), \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/200\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  A.M.  P.M.

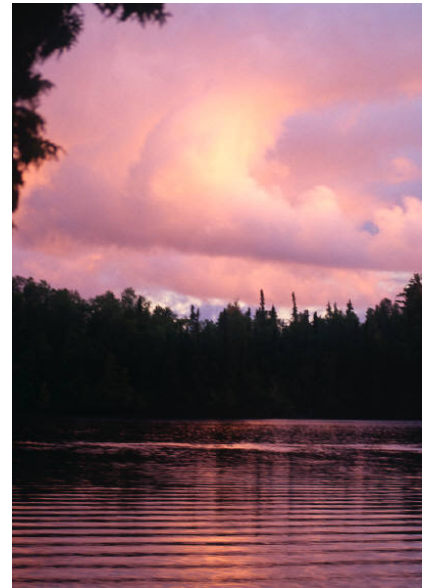
Truck/trailer parked where (& when):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Boat:** XXX brand XXX foot boat, XXX color, with XXX brand outboard motor, license #XXX.

**Vehicle:** XXX year XXX brand XXX model, XXX color, license #XXX.

### **Coast Guard/rescue:**

- San Juans area: 734-1692.
- Lower Mainland of B.C.: Chilliwack Police: 1-604-792-4611.
- Pitt River or Stave River: Ridge Meadows police: 1-604-463-6251.
- Neah Bay & Sekiu areas: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Port Angeles area: 206-457-2220.
- Seattle area (Seattle & Possession Bar & Possession Sound & Camano, etc.): 206-286-5400.
- "The Fishery" (Marina/campground) 541-374-8577.
- ....Bonneville Dam area: . 1-509-427-4281, or 1-503-374-8820
- Barkley Sound: 604-363-2333 (regional office in Victoria).





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- If rough water: recheck on wind report w/in half day of day fishing, since it *changes* often.
- Reel drags set correctly.
- Rig the rods/lures.
- Leaders. Pre-tied leader rigs?
- Pliers.
- Weights. 
- Knife.
- WD-40 swivels.
- If saltwater: plastic bucket with lid, with freshwater in it (for lures/swivels/flashers when remove from saltwater.)
- Buy bait?
- Peeing bucket?
- Landing net?
- 1 cushion (C.G. requirement).
- Navigation charts.
- Brine, or cut, or prepare the bait?
- Trailer's title in?
- VHF radio.
- **Boat's batteries charged?!**
- Water all boat batteries.
- Enough gas in boat & vehicle!? Refueling: battery to "off" position!
- Course put on GPS?
- Depth sounder.
- Boat's spare trailer tire. Jack and lug wrench for trailer.
- Can-opener?
- Portable toilet? R.V. anti-freeze in winter.
- Dollar bills for launch-parking drop-box?
- GPS in boat.
- PFD each. 
- Ice in bait holding (& fish-holding?) cooler(s)!
- Tie downs tight on back of boat.
- Rubber strap on kicker-motor for traveling!
- Saltwater: plastic tie-straps to secure kicker-motor, instead of metal pad?
- Cell phone in boat.



- Tackle box(s).
- If in Canada, & boat has motor, Canadian *non*-residents need:  
If craft of less than 13': proof of residence will be required on board at all times.  
(After September 15, 2009: proof of residence will be required on board at all times (even if 13' or over.))
- Rods into boat.
- Boat battery off. Disconnect grounds if *direct* hookups!
- ...downrigger connected *directly* to battery so draws...so DISCONNECT DOWNRIGGER (we'll disconnect to TRAVEL ANYWAY, but this keeps it from sucking juice *overnight*.)
- Padlocks on kicker-motor and boat's storage compartments?
- "Secure-down" our front rubber window latch of walk-through window on boat.
- Jackets.
- Rain jackets.
- Waders or boots.
- If boots or waders: enough thermal socks + wool socks to not get cold!
- If waders: safety belt.
- Fishing vest. 
- Passport or birth certificate if cross US border. 

## "Make-it-fun" Ideas

- We consider laptop computer (or portable DVD player?) to watch DVD, for if fishing slows.  
Branden loves "Veggie-tail" cartoons on DVD. 
- We enjoy music when exercising, etc., so how about when fishing? 
-  We enjoy keeping in touch with friends/family in other boats, or back at camp, or at home, via cell phone or walkie-talkie.
- If your team is playing that day, consider radio, or little portable TV?
- Some people enjoy adult beverages as much as the fishing? Ice + ice container? (Have a designated-driver for the car *and* boat.)

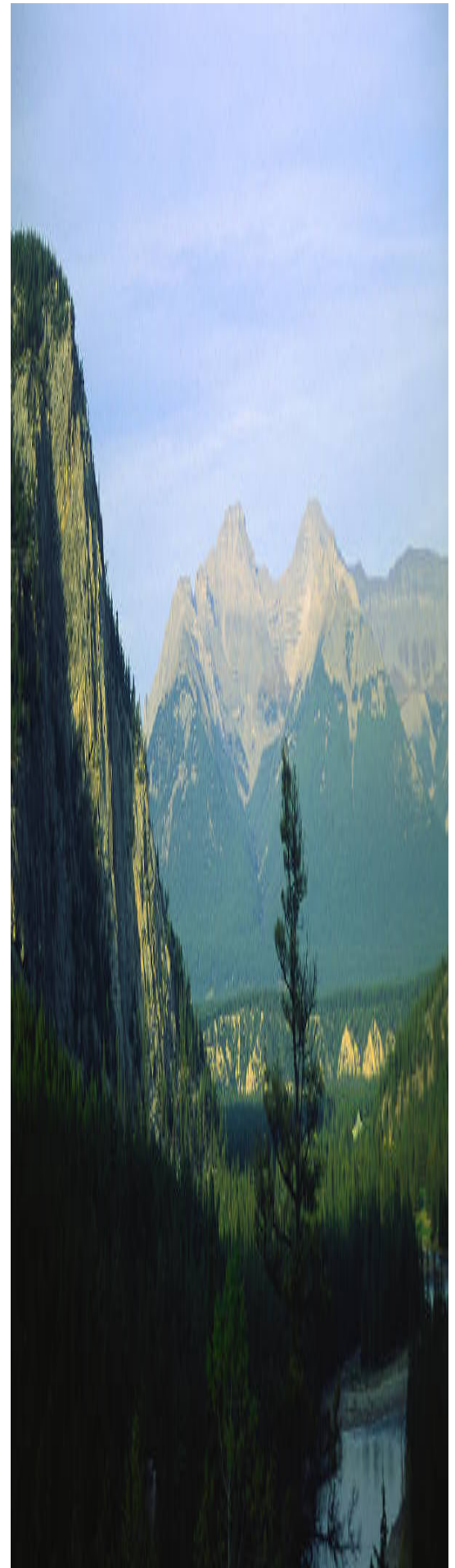
## "Make-it-fun" Ideas with Little Kidz Kids



Fish scenarios where kid will likely hook a fish at least every 20 minutes!!



We set watch's count-down (or hourly chime) to ring every hour, to pro-actively *ask* Branden "are you ready to leave now?!"





Consider bringing Branden's toy or video game, for if fishing slows down?



Branden *loves* viewing all the fish he's landed swimming in a 5-gallon bucket!!

If *releasing* them later, bring a cup to change most of the water in the bucket, every hour, or they sometimes start floating to the top due to lack of oxygen.



Underwater video camera (Branden loves *watching* fish and "looking for treasure" as much as fishing!!)

## Start of Trip



- Connect boat batteries now.
- Recheck wind report, even if checked by 6PM night before! Especially Oct 15 - April 30.
- Put boat batteries in boat.
- Wind won't blow stuff out of boat while traveling?
- Quick "once-around-boat/trailer" before leaving.


## At Parking Lot



- Into 4-WD?
- GPS on.
- Unplug trailer/vehicle connection right before launching.
- If dangerous anchoring: knife to cut rode very accessible.
- In-board's BLOWER ON, cover open!!
- ....Motor in neutral.
- Running lights on, if low light conditions.
- Boat's drain plug put IN!!

## In Water

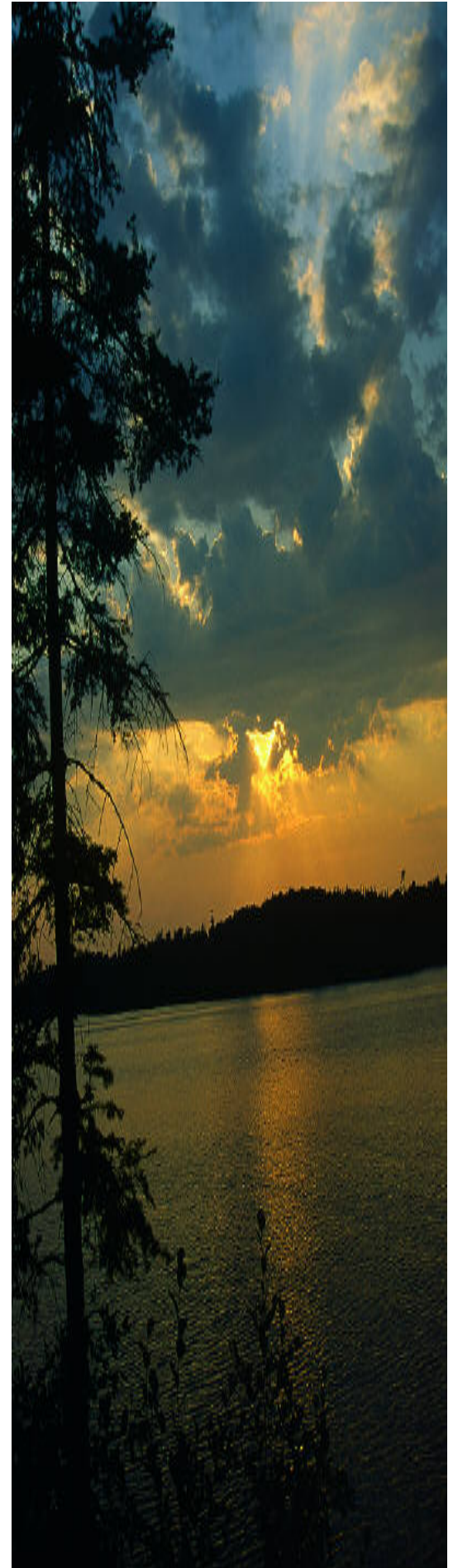


- GPS "tracking stations" ok!?
- PFDs on. 
- Warm kicker-motor & big motor.
- Shallow alarm on?

## Arrive At Spot



- Wash hands before touching lures the first time?
- If trolling: backup-rods rigged/baited.
- Ask questions of other fishermen we pass.





- After 5+- fish, check: 1. Hook sharpness.
- 2. Line, for nicks.



## Done Fishing



- If saltwater: lures/flashers/swivels (etc.) in freshwater bucket!
- Shallow alarm?
- De-twist lines: 1. Cut off EVERYTHING, including swivels!  
2. Cut off 6' of line.  
3. Let out 100' of line, put rod in rod-holder.  
4. "Troll" boat fast (15-20 MPH) for 5 minutes.

## Boat Out of Water



- Trailer's latch connected to boat's bow!
- Plug in trailer/vehicle electrical connection!!
- Drain boat by removing drain-plug.
- Tie downs!
- BOAT BATTERY OFF!!
- Rubber strap on kicker-motor for traveling.
- Unplug kicker-motor's gas line (if won't run motor later that day.)
- Boat's drain-plug back in!
- Out of 4-WD?
- Buy boat gas!

## If Saltwater, or Silty, or Polluted Water



- Wash boat.
- Run engines with freshwater, 5 minutes.
- Flush trailer brakes.
- If won't use again for 5+ months: run motors out of gas, or let carburetor drain?

## Back At Home



- Fill boat's *backup* oil can if used it.
- Fill oil.
- Padlock on kicker, if store outdoors.
- Empty boat's garbage bag (gallon clear sack, weighted so won't blow out.)
- 4 shots of grease to trailer's bearings. Eye-ball it to see if enough grease still in it.



- Disconnect boat batteries!
- Re-charge boat batteries if weren't re-charged (if used by Downrigger.) enough overall by big motor (do now if low, or battery will "sulfate").
- Every 3rd trip: Test 12 volt boat batteries.  
Did (month/year): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Didn't: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- BOAT BATTERY OFF.
- Every try 3rd trip: Corrosion-X on downrigger & sounder's & boat connection & sounder itself (not Corrosion-X on sounder's stuff – do LPS1 instead) & trailer's male & female connections. and any sub-connections & spare connections near well, on both trailers on all vehicles.  
Did (month/year): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Didn't: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- Clear GPS waypoints entered that are not needed for future?
- Re-check sharpness of hooks used.
- If they got wet, open tackle boxes & vest.
- Waders: 1. Turn inside-out, let dry, then turn back "in".  
2. Empty plastic garbage-baggie in wader's pouch.
- If fly lines used: clean them.
- Replace lost items: \_\_\_\_\_



## Each April & November



- 1. Check (torque?) lug-nuts on all trailers.  
Did: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- 2. Check trailer's brake fluid. Change every \_\_\_\_ years.  
Did: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- 3. Check spark plugs on relevant engines.
- 4. Flares current through next 6 months (through April or Nov.)  
Enough shells?
- 5. Recharge VHF's batteries.
- 6. Fire extinguisher's gauge shows it's OK?  
Did: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Each April



- 1. Freshwater AND saltwater ones: Completely re-grease all trailer's wheel bearings.  
Dates completed: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- 2. Rust on motor's cotter pins?  
Did: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- 3. Clean & oil reels, including backup reels.  
Did: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_
- 4. Toss and replace (mark date): Smelly Jelly that's over 2 years old.
- 5. Cut 5' of all Downrigger cables, and re-attach the clip.  
Did: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_
- 6. Fishing lines 24+ months old: Change them.  
Did: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Yearly: Top-off reels to 1/8" of spool edge.
- 7. FRESH batteries in flashlights.  
Did: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_

## Each November



- 1. *Saltwater* trailer's bearings: Completely re-grease (& April).

## To-do/Notes



End © The Fishing Coaches 9/05