

## APPENDIX I

### BOAT TRAILERING CHECK LIST

1. Ensure that the tow vehicle is appropriately sized for the vessel being towed, in terms of towing power AND braking ability.
2. Check trailer coupler operation, proper size (e.g., 2-inch coupler for 2-inch ball on hitch) and make sure there is a safety pin for coupler.
3. Check the light connector pin on boat trailer and tow vehicle.
4. Make sure the trailer has safety chains and they are long enough to attach to your tow vehicle. Chains should be crisscrossed from boat to truck to catch tongue of trailer if coupler fails.
5. Make sure the boat winch cable is connected to the boat and that it is not damaged. Also make sure there is a safety cable from the trailer to the boat and that it is connected. In addition make sure to have stern tie downs.
6. Make sure there is a spare trailer tire with equipment to change a tire if needed.
7. Check trailer tire pressure and examine tire tread for imperfections.
8. Check the buddy bearings on axle and grease if necessary. Recommended to carry spare hub and bearings for replacement if bearings fail. Check bearings by feeling hub after trailer has been underway. Extremely hot hubs are an indication that bearings are failing.
9. Check lights for cracks or loose connections and make sure they are operating correctly (brake, blinker, tail and hazards).
10. Make sure drain plugs are removed and boat is drained prior to trailering. Excess weight from water in hull can shift while towing. This is also important while traveling in heavy rains to or from field. Be sure to put plugs in prior to launching boat.
11. Make sure the tag is on the trailer.
12. Make sure you have a copy of the boat and trailer registration (LAKEWATCH keep the registration in a waterproof tube tied to the boat by the ignition).