



# Aluminum Fishing Boat Pre-Launch Checklist

A quick, repeatable inspection for your boat, motor, power, trailer, safety equipment and fishing gear before hitting the water.

TIN CAN BOAT WORKS | SMALL BOATS. SERIOUS FISHING.

## BOAT & HULL

- Drain plug installed and secure.
- Walk around hull; check for new damage, cracks, dents, leaking rivets, damaged welds or corrosion.
- Check bilge and compartments for unexpected water.
- Seats, hatches and loose equipment are secure.
- Required safety equipment is aboard and accessible.

## OUTBOARD & FUEL

- Enough fuel aboard for the planned trip, with reserve.
- Fuel tank, fuel line, primer bulb and fittings appear serviceable.
- Engine oil checked where applicable.
- Propeller and lower unit inspected for visible damage.
- Outboard mounting and transom appear secure.
- Steering, controls, trim/tilt and engine position checked before towing/launching.

## BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL

- Starting and trolling-motor batteries adequately charged.
- Battery terminals and cables secure; no significant corrosion or heat damage.
- Master battery switch set appropriately.
- Navigation lights, bilge pump and other essential electrical equipment tested.
- Fish finder and other electronics power up normally.

## TROLLING MOTOR & FISHING EQUIPMENT

- Trolling motor mount, shaft and propeller inspected.
- Trolling motor plug, breaker and wiring appear normal.
- Rods, tackle, anchor, dock lines and fishing equipment secured.
- Livewell/bait system checked if it will be used.

## TRAILER

- Trailer tires inspected and pressure checked cold.
- Spare tire appears ready for use.
- Coupler fully seated and locked; safety pin/lock installed.
- Safety chains connected and trailer jack raised.

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- Trailer plug connected and lights tested.
  - Winch strap/cable, bow connection and transom tie-downs secure.
  - Hubs/bearings show no obvious leakage, looseness or abnormal condition.
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### AT THE RAMP - BEFORE THE BOAT ENTERS THE WATER

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- Drain plug checked again.
  - Transom tie-downs removed.
  - Motor support/transom saver removed where applicable.
  - Dock lines ready.
  - Trolling motor and loose gear secure.
  - Bow connection retained until the boat is positioned and ready to launch.
  - Ramp preparation completed in the staging area whenever possible.
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Use this checklist as a practical owner reference. Always follow the boat, engine, trailer, battery and equipment manufacturers' instructions and applicable boating-safety requirements.