**OFFSHORE TIPS**

**In advance, contact each other to discuss the following**:

-Time and location to meet prior to launch.  Don’t be late!

-Share cost of gas, etc.

-Determine PFD/Life vest needs

-How much gear/tackle each person can bring.  There is limited room on the boat

-Determine if anyone is bringing ice to keep fish cool.

-Discuss boat operation (trolling motor, electronics, launching, trailer)

-If distance and hotel are involved, discuss loading, transportation costs.

-Determine if Captain needs help get the boat ready before and after fishing.

-Guests should always offer to help wipe down the boat afterwards.

**While on the water:**

-Keep gear organized and stowed when not in use as often as possible.

-Don't be careless with lure dyes, drinks, food, stepping in the boat with muddy feet, banging crankbaits off the motor or boat and a reckless style hook set that is hard to control

-Manage trash throughout the day and pick up your trash at the end of the day.

-Make sure you are capable of handling a net, nothing will make a partner more upset than having a co-angler knock a few fish off at the boat.

-When it's time to move make sure you have your rods strapped down and your life jacket/PFD on before the boater is ready to fire up the motor.

-Do your best not to cast on top of or over your boater. Accidents will happen and the wind has a way of picking up in the middle of a cast and taking your cast a little wide right, but just don't cut him off so you can hit a target before he does, unless he tells you to.

-If catching fish on a certain bait and the partner doesn't have one; offer to loan them one if you have enough. You are a team.

-Try not to front end them with the trolling motor. If the wind is out of a direction that just doesn't allow a position for a good angle then offer them a spot on the front deck.

-When you get to a spot where it isn't obvious what we are fishing make sure and fill them in on what it is that you are fishing (for instance if it's a ledge or brush pile, make sure they know that so they can fish accordingly rather than just letting them unknowingly cast out in the middle of nowhere).

-Ask for advice or assistance if needed (line snag) and try to keep unnecessary noise to a minimum.

**Captains have the final word on safety, navigation, and pretty much everything.  Please respect your captain and their decisions.**