

Fairwinds Dinghy Operating Procedures

Last Revised: April 2026

Fairwinds operates two *GreatPacific* rigid inflatable 8.5ft dinghies, paired with 2.5HP Suzuki 4 -stroke outboards.

Specs

Weight: 54 kg / 120 lb

Overall Length (LOA): 250 cm / 8'3"

Outside Beam: 152cm / 5'

Motor Shaft Length: Short (15")

Max Persons: 3

Max Engine HP: 6 hp

Max Speed: 6 knots

Max Load: 550lbs

Safety

- Ensure the dinghy has the required Department of Transportation safety items on board (e.g. PFDs, bailer, whistle).
- User caution when boarding. Board by stepping onto dinghy's floor .
- Keep your weight and center of gravity low in the boat; distribute the load around the center.

Towing

- Use bow eye on hull for towing.
- Empty boat before towing . Do not tow with people in boat.
- Do not tow with outboard motor installed – flexing on the transom can lead to damage.
- Keep dinghy in tight to mothership when in reverse. **Do not have the painter in the water else you risk wrapping the line around the prop!!** You really don't want that to happen. You will likely disable the engine and be responsible for any damage that occurs. This could be a very expensive (for you) mistake!

At Anchor

- Do not allow the dinghy to swing. Keep the dinghy secure with the mothership and protected by bumpers. Do not allow the outboard or dinghy to bounce off the mothership.

At SNSM

- Secure the dinghy upside down on the dinghy-dock support. Position it so it can not be damaged if bumped by the mothership when docking.
- Keep the inflatable covered dockside – it's important to protect it from the sun's damaging ultra-violet rays.

Outboard

- Maximum hp rating : 6hp
- Lock outboard securely to the sailboat pushpit when not in use.
- Keep the outboard covered (use the spare sail-bag) when not in use.
- Check fuel before heading out. Do not refuel onboard! Take the outboard and fuel container ashore and observe all safety precautions. Gasoline is extremely flammable and explosive – unlike diesel fuel – know the difference!
- CAUTION: ensure you use the correct fuel, as there are containers of both diesel and gasoline onboard. Use only unmixed gasoline in the outboard. Use only diesel in the Yanmar.
- !!! DO NOT !!! store gasoline in the lazarette nor down below. The fumes are extremely dangerous and any leak could lead to a fire or explosion.
- Check crankcase oil level before starting

- Open gas cap vent so air can enter the fuel tank as the engine runs
 - Ensure engine is securely fastened to motor mount and gear lever is in neutral position before starting
 - Engage the emergency kill-switch , with the lanyard attached to your wrist.
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- After use: flush the engine with freshwater
 - Shut off fuel supply and run the engine until it dies (i.e. the carburetor is dry)

Refer to *SOP-Part5-Outboard Motors* for more information