



## Boat Christening

Invite everyone to the christening who is important to the boat.

Distribute champagne glasses to all the attendees and fill them up.

Get everyone's attention and now say:

"For thousands of years, we have gone to sea. We have crafted vessels to carry us and we have called them by name.

These ships will nurture and care for us through perilous seas, and so we affectionately call them "she." To them we toast, and ask to celebrate (the name of your boat)."

Then everybody raises their plastic glass filled with champagne and shouts,

"TO THE SAILORS OF OLD? TO (the name of your boat)."

Everybody takes a sip.

Now Continue: "The moods of the sea are many, from tranquil to violent. We ask that this ship be given the strength to carry on. The keel is strong and she keeps out the pressures of the sea."

Again the glasses are raised, and the assemblage shouts,

"TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS OF OLD...TO THE SEA!" Everybody takes another sip.

Continue. "Today we come to name this lady (name of your boat), and send her to sea to be cared for, and to care for the (name of your family) family.

We ask the sailors of old and the mood of God that is the sea to accept (your boat's name) as her name, to help her through her passages, and allow her to return with her crew safely. "

Again, with the raising of the glasses, "TO THE SEA...TO THE SAILORS BEFORE US...TO (the name of your boat)." A last, long sip by all.

Now pour champagne over the bow to appease King Neptune, and lay a branch of green leaves on the deck to ensure safe returns.

(Breaking the bottle across her prow is optional for a recreational vessel, and should be done only if all safety precautions have been taken, and after the bottle has been properly scored for a clean break.)

**Fair Winds, Safe Sailing and Godspeed!**