

Small Boat Detectability

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Small wooden and fiberglass boats can be difficult for radar to see. If you are offshore in rough weather, the boat could be even harder to see by others if you are in a trough.

There are a couple of things you can do to be more visible. The obvious one is to install a radar reflector that is mounted as high as possible.

The other is the Automatic Identification System (AIS) Class B or B+ to provide identification and position information to vessels and shore stations, allowing small boats to see and be seen by other ships operating in their area. An AIS transponder consists of a GPS receiver and a VHF data radio. The transponder transmits the vessel's GPS position on VHF channels 87B and 88B, which are dedicated to AIS, and have a range of at least 8 miles.

To see the AIS action on the internet, go to :

<https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:-70.2/centery:42.8/zoom:7>