



# How to maintain a fishing boat for the winter

by Tom Keer



A lot of boaters never check their vessels after their outboard is winterized, the electronics are removed and the shrink wrap is tight. It's not easy to maintain a fishing boat in the winter, and a periodic check makes a lot of sense. Here are four winter boat maintenance tips that will make your spring launch much easier.

### 1. Check your trailer.

Leaves can pile up under your trailer. They get wet, they are covered with snow and ice, and that moisture rusts roller and bunk brackets. Rake them out before it's too late.

### 2. Check your shrink wrap.

Maintaining a fishing boat in the winter can be as simple as checking to make sure that your covering is intact. It's difficult to puncture shrink wrap, but branches tossed around in a strong wind can poke a hole in the plastic that allows water inside.

A more common issue pertains to tarps that aren't securely fastened. They blow around in strong winds and rain, and they collapse under the weight of snow. Check your covering, patch any holes, and keep the water at bay.

### 3. Tire pressure.

If you haven't put your trailer on blocks then check your tire pressure. Two additional winter boat maintenance tips.

If you're storing your trailer for more than a month then inflate tires to maximum pressure.

Avoid long-term storage on soft ground such as grass or dirt. Trailers plus boat weight plus water-logged ground can equal trouble. Be careful your trailer doesn't sink in.



### 4. Take advantage of winter months.

There are some things you can work on during the winter while your boat is in dry dock.

Boat bottom cleaning is time consuming, so if you can use down time in the winter to scrape and wash your hull then you'll just need to sand and paint the bottom when the weather is warm.

If you can access the cockpit then drill holes for new electronics, run transducer cables and replace any corroded components. It's a good time for new hubs, too.

The more you maintain a fishing boat in the winter the easier it is to splash in the spring. After all, that's when the fun begins.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ROD RASO (from page 2)

Combat wasn't the worst part of the war. The worst was being away from home, booby traps, monsoons, mud, leeches, mosquitoes every night, all night.

I often thought of being back home (Port Washington, Long Island, NY) fishing on my boat

When I came home I couldn't relate to any of my family or friends, and all of their trivial conversations. To unwind I drove to the end of the peninsula that I lived on to meditate, unwind and cry.

As I looked out over Long Island Sound, to my surprise, a police car pulled up. The cop got out and told Rod to move.

"There is no parking here or anywhere on the shoreline," he said. The lady on the hill 500 feet away had called and complained.

### ROD... TODAY

Eventually Rod moved to Rhode Island, partly to enjoy the coast more freely.

Rod still thinks back on this.

"The killer is," he said, "veterans fought and died for our country, but we are denied access to our shoreline."

He noted though that, "We lose our privileges a little at a time" and he applauds the growing group of activists who have been pushing to protect and expand shoreline access in R.I.

Today Rod says to me, "Thank you for all your work and dedication with RISAA, and thanks to Lynn for putting up with you all these years."

*Just Another Night Out*  
By Rod Raso  
*Ferns for a bed*  
*Mosquitos around my head*  
*The drown of their wings*  
*Their fire of their stings*  
*The leeches crawled on slow*  
*and caused my blood to flow.*  
*I look not for your sympathy*  
*but this is what life was for me.*  
P.S. May I please walk on you beach As#&@&\$e?

Rod, thank YOU for your service!