



“WINTERIZING” CHECKLIST

Here is a brief checklist that CAT Anglers might want to use as they get ready for colder weather and next year’s upcoming CAT Tournament Trail. These suggestions were compiled by CAT Members at their meeting on November 10, 2009.

BOAT AND MOTOR

1. Change the oil in the motor’s lower unit.
2. Add “Stabil”, “Startron” or other fuel treatment to your gas tank (regularly, not just once a year).
3. If you are storing your boat during the winter, you may want to completely drain the fuel tank before storing.
4. Replace fuel filters and clean and empty water separators.
5. Keep your batteries fully charged (unhook batteries that are not in regular use after charging).
6. Check the water in your batteries and top off if necessary. Clean battery terminals and tops.
7. Replace the impeller on your water pump, and replace the pump if necessary.
8. Check the motor for frayed or loose wires, connections or clamps.
9. Check all hoses (fuel, live well, etc.) for cracks or a “mushy” feeling and replace if necessary.
10. Check, clean and repair bilge and live well pumps.
11. Grease hydraulic steering units.
12. Check the prop for nicks or other signs of damage.
13. Lower outboards all the way down in extremely cold weather to drain all water from the motor.
14. Tighten all screws and loose bolts.
15. Make all necessary repairs now. Boat shops and Marinas are slow in the winter so you can have repairs made quickly.

TRAILER

1. Re-pack (or replace) all wheel bearings.
2. Clean and grease the jack.
3. Check and replace or repair damaged or rotting bunks.
4. Check for cracked or broken leaf springs and loose or damaged u-bolts.
5. Check and refill brake fluid on trailers with braking systems.
6. Check brake lines for leaks or spots where they may be rubbing the frame.
7. Check and repair all lights and wiring.
8. Tighten the license plate bracket.
9. Check your tires for proper air pressure (don't forget the spare) and check for cracked or worn tires.

EQUIPMENT

1. Check, clean and tighten your transducer(s) and re-secure any loose cables or wires.
2. Replace any broken rod guides, clean cork grips and store out of sunlight.
3. Use treated cattle "ear tags" to keep critters from taking up residence in your boat.
4. Clean, lubricate and repair your reels.
5. Replace monofilament and fluorocarbon line.
6. Clean and reorganize your tackle. Simplify what you take with you on the water.