

OUT OF THE WATER

___ Inspect and lubricate seacocks. Hoses and hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary.

___ Replace deteriorated zincs.

___ Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft - if it's loose, the cutlass (shaft) bearing may need to be replaced.

___ Check to make sure the rudder stock hasn't been bent.

___ Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

___ Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and properly secured.

Outdrives and outboards:

___ Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds), and replace if suspect.

___ Check power steering and power trim oil levels. Replace worn-out zincs.

___ Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and could mean that the cable should be replaced.

Engines and fuel systems:

___ Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks and make sure all lines are well supported with non-combustible clips or straps with smooth edges.

___ Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be snug and free of heavy rust. Clean fuel filters.

___ Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rots, leaks and/or cracking. Make sure they fit snugly and are double-clamped.

___ Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.

___ Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water.

___ Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.

Sailboat rigging:

___ Inspect fittings for cracks and rust. Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.

___ Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape.

___ Re-caulk deck-mounted chainplates as necessary.

IN THE WATER

___ Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for steady leaks and looseness.

___ Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulks or gaskets as necessary.

___ If equipped, ensure that stern drain plug is installed.

Trailers:

___ Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure. Don't forget the spare!

___ Inspect bearings and repack as necessary.

___ Test tail and back-up lights. Test winch to make sure it's working properly.

Miscellaneous:

___ Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.

___ Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.

___ Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure it's working properly.

___ Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.

___ Update or replace old charts, waterway guides.

___ Make sure your boating license and/or registration is up to date. Don't forget your trailer tags.

___ Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed.

___ Make sure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger including kids and pets.