



December 2015 Newsletter

Winterize Season

It's that time of year again! The leaves have started to change color, and the nights are getting longer and cooler. Before the mercury dips below freezing, you need to prepare your boat for the coming winter. At its most basic, winterizing means draining any water aboard or replacing it with enough of the right kind of antifreeze to protect against the lowest temperatures your boat might experience. Fresh water expands in volume by about nine percent when it freezes and can push outwards with a force of tens of thousands of pounds per square inch. That expansion can crack an engine block, damage fiberglass, split hoses, or destroy a refrigeration system overnight. An analysis of ten years of freeze claims from the BoatUS Marine Insurance claim files found that more than three-quarters involved cracks in the engine block or the exhaust manifolds that occurred because water remained in the engine or cooling system during a hard freeze.

Those claims come from all over the country, not just from the states that get snow every year. Boaters in the frozen North know they need to winterize, so their freeze claims almost always involve a problem with how the boat was winterized. In the temperate South, the claim files include many more claims where the boat wasn't winterized at all, or where the boater was depending upon a heater to keep the engine from freezing and the electricity went out.

Most of those who don't winterize, or don't winterize properly, only find out something is wrong in the spring when brown froth starts spewing through a crack in the side of the engine block or what looks like chocolate milk appears on the dipstick. Repairing freeze damage takes time and all too often involves a complete engine replacement. By the time the boat is in working order, a good part of the boating season will have been lost. Winterizing most boats takes from an hour to a day. Unless you are located in Hawaii or the Florida Keys, we recommend winterizing your engine if you will be laying up the boat for even a few weeks to minimize the chances that a sudden freeze will put it out of commission next season.

While winter layup lists can run to several pages and take a month of Sundays to complete, many of those lists include maintenance and cosmetic items that, while nice, don't make it any more likely your boat will get through the winter unscathed. Even if we have the best of intentions in September when we put together our fall work list for the boat, life tends to get in the way, and all too often we find ourselves rushing to the boat the weekend before a hard freeze is forecast. At that point, all we have time for are the essentials that will protect our boat from damage.

You can "google" *The Boater's Guide to Winterizing* where you'll find the list of items that would have prevented more than 95 percent of the freeze claims handled by Marine Insurance Programs in the past decade. Of course, every boat is different, and you'll want to add other items from the owner's manuals for your boat and the additional equipment it carries. There are checklists available that can serve as the starting point for creating your own winterizing list that will maximize your boat's chances of coming through the winter without damage. 

California Coastal Commission on El Nino 2015-16

Although El Niño events are part of a natural climatological cycle, shifts in global atmospheric and oceanographic patterns are expected to affect their nature. Research suggests that as the ocean surface continues to warm, particularly in the eastern Pacific, both the frequency and intensity of El Niño events will increase significantly in the future. When combined with sea level rise, flooding and other impacts associated with storms will also begin to reach further inland. Continued...

[Coinciding with the 2015/16 winter season, a powerful El Niño event continues to develop in the tropical Pacific](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/extreme-weather/el-nino/), and its peak influence on the Northern Hemisphere is anticipated for the December-February period. To prepare for impacts due to flooding, unusually large waves, heavy precipitation, and erosion, coastal Californians can begin to take measured steps now. The following website has checklists on preparation and assistance from the California Coastal Commission.
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/extreme-weather/el-nino/>

201 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710
Tel.: 510 981-6740 TDD: 510 981-6903 Fax: 510 981-6745
E-mail: marina@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Please visit the Marina Homepage at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/marina>
The Waterfront Commission can be found at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=13094>

Updated Insurance Requirement Policy for Berkeley Marina

The City of Berkeley Marina **is now requiring** general liability insurance coverage from all berthers that includes an “endorsement letter” indicating proof of **current** and valid Protection & Indemnity (P & I) or Watercraft Liability Insurance with limits of at least \$300,000. The endorsement must also name the City of Berkeley, its officials, employees, and volunteers as an additional insured. The insurance policy must contain a provision that covers cost recovery for salvage and pollution control, and it must require that coverage shall not be cancelled except after thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to the boater and the City. These requirements are based on current industry standards throughout California and they are the best way to protect boaters and marinas from the significant financial losses that can occur due to hazardous spills, accidental property damages, and sunken vessels. We very much appreciate your help on this!

Dungeness Crab Season 2015-16

Hold the melted butter because those Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts of fresh local crab will likely have to wait. Chuck Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, is expected to make a decision soon on whether to also close the \$60 million commercial crab fishery in California for the 2015-16 season, which had promised to deliver the seafood to stores and restaurants starting Nov. 15, 2015. The health threat is so serious that crab industry veterans are on board with the clampdown.

“This is serious,” said Dave Bitts, president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, who believes there is no choice but to halt all crabbing until at least January 2016. “We don’t need to have anyone get sick from eating a crab that we knew might have had something wrong with it. That is the worst thing we can do for ourselves.”

The toxin, known as domoic acid, is produced naturally by algal blooms linked to this year’s record high Pacific Ocean temperatures. Known to cause seizures, coma and even death in humans and animals, the poisonous algae is estimated to be 40 miles wide and at least 45 feet deep along the Pacific coast. Scientists who study ocean biology say the algae blooms, which have been detected continually since April 2015, are the biggest and most toxic they have ever seen. The suspension of recreational crabbing came after state biologists found high levels of domoic acid in crabs at eight ports in California from Morro Bay to Crescent City, which prompted the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to recommend closing the year-round rock crab fishery and delaying the recreational and commercial Dungeness seasons.

Dock Boxes again!

We know. We sound like a broken record on this issue, but for those of you who are new to the Berkeley Marina – please do NOT store hazardous materials in your Dock Boxes! These boxes are designed for sails, tools, PFD’s and the like, and they are Not for fuel, diesel, oil, thinners paint, and other hazardous items. When you leave these items in the box, they corrode and drip into the waterways. Everyone at the Marina has agreed to abide by this rule, so do please do your part, clean out the dock boxes, and store nonhazardous materials in them. We thank you!

Berkeley Marina Staff Holiday Message

We want to wish you all a safe and joyous Holiday Season! Thank you **to all our boaters** for your continued support and involvement in our Marina Community. We appreciate all your help, kindness and assistance in the on-going effort to improve our marina. Thank you all.

