



Rudder Bearing Maintenance

While the rudder bearings require little maintenance, it is important to keep them clean and free from debris.

Lower Bearings:

When the boat is hauled the lower bearing should be flushed with fresh water. This can be accomplished by moving the rudder back and forth while applying a strong stream of water from a hose. Further flushing can be accomplished by pouring water through the bearing. Note: bearings with seals should remove the seal prior to flushing.

Upper Bearings:

Flush with fresh water while moving the rudder back and forth. Note: Never use grease or oil to lubricate rollers. Do not use solvents or harsh cleaners to clean bearings or rollers.

Seals:

The seals should be routinely checked. If there is leakage by the seal then the seal clamp ring should be snugged slightly. Over tightening the clamp ring will cause the steering to become stiff. The nitrile seal should be lubricated with a silicone or Teflon grease. Remove the allen head screws from the top of the bearing. Slide the seal up the shaft. Insert a small amount of grease into the slot for the seal. Slide the seal back into the slot and re-slug the allen head screws. Be careful not pinch the seal when tightening.