STERN DRIVE vs SHAFT DRIVE

THE BENEFITS OF A STERN DRIVE ENGINE





IMPROVED PERFORMANCE & EFFICIENCY:

A stern drive engine boat is known for more speed and boat trim ability while being a more efficient propulsion system compared to shaft drives because:-

- The propeller on a Stern drive can be adjusted to the correct angle of water flow as opposed to often a more acute angle resulting in making the engine work much harder.
- Trimming down allows quicker acceleration.
- This normally means a larger horsepower engine is required on a shaft driven boat to compensate for loss of efficiency to achieve the required performance.



- This is all the more so on smaller boats in 20-30ft range where inboard engines have to run steeper shaft angles due to the space available.
- Greater fuel economy. The need for a smaller engine on a stern drive and an improved performance means improved range and lower emissions.

CONVENIENCE:

Sterndrive's provide the boat with a versatile range of trim with a tilt mechanism enabling:-

- Better adjustment of the running angle allowing for smoother rides when trimmed up.
- Ability to run in shallower water with drive leg tilted, avoiding risk of damage to propeller/rudder/p.brackets and shaft which can all be very costly to repair.
- Ability to dry the boat out (with some drive legs) due to a full tilt up facility.
- The leg can be raised/tilted upwards for easier access to release lobster pots/nets/rope/plastic bags etc which may become entangled in the prop.

EXCELLENT LOW SPEED MANOEUVRABILITY:

Shaft driven boats go one direction in reverse no matter what the position of the wheel. With a stern drive boat, reverse and forward thrust is directional.

It's true that Stern drive's can, at times, have higher maintenance requirements than inboards. However sterndrive motors offer better access and any additional service cost on the leg is more than outweighed by fuel savings and lower initial capital outlay on a smaller engine.

INSTALLATION AND ACCESSIBILITY:

- Since a sterndrive boat has the equipment on the back of the boat, the engine is located all the way aft and lower down this often allows more internal volume forward for stowage and accommodation than on an inboard shaft driven boat.
- Engines located further aft instead of inside the wheelhouse/accommodation mean less noise and vibration whilst underway.
- Stern drive engines often provide easier access for servicing, whereas shaft drive engines are often twin installation and fitted further outboard due to their height in the boat and space available, therefore access to the outerside of each engine can often be quite restricted.



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