

## OFTEN FORGOTTEN & LONGER TERM MAINTENANCE.

OK, So you now have the boat of your dreams and the problems found during the survey have been rectified. You have a healthy boat, and intend to keep it so.

From now on it works both ways, YOU look after your boat, and your boat looks after you. Together, whether sailing to enchanted faraway places or for a leisurely coastal cruise, you'll be completely dependent upon each other. Remember the earlier statement... that once you find the right boat... there will be plenty of time to love it,... Well, that time starts NOW.

It's time to devise a maintenance schedule tailored specifically to YOUR boat, and by strictly supporting it, barring accidents, you should never suffer a breakdown. I have emphasized throughout this book the importance of seeking and using only TOP QUALITY materials. To waver from this tried and true formula, just once, is to invite trouble.

You should remember that it is not so much the PRICE you pay, in fact there is no reason for marine goods, other than blatant profiteering, to be more expensive than any other quality product, but what is most important is where and by whom they were made. At this point in time, the products of established western hemisphere manufacturers are guaranteed to be top quality. Throughout my cruising life I've remained totally failure free by adhering to my "quality" policy, and cannot emphasise enough that with today's saturated market it is more than ever, imperative to be vigilant, no matter how insignificant the item.

Again, much depends on the way you use your boat, its construction material and your cruising areas. One thing is absolutely certain, if your boat is UNUSED... it WILL progressively DETERIORATE.

Let's Face It, You Bought Your Boat To Go Cruising, to break away from the rat-race,... to reclaim your... LIFE. All that remains is to DO IT!

This is for the owners that are going to do exactly THAT, whose boats will be reliable and trouble free BECAUSE they are properly maintained, cherished and USED.

By following the guidelines, you'll ensure the continued longevity of those easily forgotten and hidden places, securing the welfare of your boat no matter where you sail,... worldwide. To the "marinabound" folk, who I hope are now inspired to use those fabulous assets, I urge you to check your boats using the SURVEY, and identify any problems. Rectify them now and when finished, you'll have the perfect "tool" to improve and change your life.

It can be accepted as true that the maintenance costs, according to boat size, are similar for glassfibre, steel and wood, providing they are primarily in good condition. The mechanical, electrical and accompanying installations of each are identical in their maintenance and thus the text will commonly apply to each.

Although the following hull information comes under the maintenance heading, once initially done, it need only be scheduled at 5 year intervals.

NO MATTER from WHICH MATERIAL your boat is made, read it ALL.