

STABILISERS FOR POWERBOATS.

“FLOPPER STOPPERS”.

DO YOU NEED THEM? ARE THEY RIGHT FOR YOUR BOAT?

HOW TO MAKE AND FIT YOUR OWN.

If you've ever been to sea on an unstabilised power boat, you will understand how variable conditions can be. A well found vessel can take a great deal of punishment... which the crew would prefer to avoid.

How many more wives and friends would go cruising if the ride were easier? How fewer accidents would occur?... How fewer divorces? Just think, with the addition of inexpensive stabilisation you can increase your safety and comfort, plus extend your cruising range to include those areas that were once “off limits”.

Not all power boats are suitable for the installation of “flopper stoppers”, as not ALL are suitable for deepsea voyaging. For example, planing hulls are to an extent stable by speed alone, but speed and range become seriously limited by wave heights over 4ft, anything worse and they're usually safely in their berths.

This article is for the owners of medium to larger sized semi-displacement and displacement trawlers or power boats with cruising speeds of 5 to 10 knots. It's for YOU, the folk who want to squeeze the most from life and your boat, whilst expanding existing horizons. Once the system is employed, there's no excuse to avoid the longer passages. Your wives, families and girlfriends will love you for it, at last they'll be happy to accompany you to those... “previously forbidden”... exotic shores. GO FOR IT... you'll NEVER regret it, the costs are minimal compared to the “LEVEL” of safety and comfort gained.

Whether your boat is FIBREGLASS, STEEL or WOOD, you can fit these stabilisers. If you have practical skills you can make them yourself, though I recommend that the welding is done professionally. Fibreglass and wood will require them to be BOLTED to the vessel, whereas with steel vessels they can be either bolted or welded, depending on your chosen material, albeit in the latter case the paintwork will suffer locally during the welding process.

So you've decided that flopper stoppers MIGHT be for you. Get your paper, pencil tape measure and calculator, and let's look at YOUR boat.

The most efficient site for the HINGED STABILISER ARMS is 28% forward of the transom. (On a 40ft boat this is approximately 11'3”) The ACTUAL “practical installation position” depends on the design of your boat, but remember... the further forward the arms are mounted, the less efficient the stabilisation.

TRY to keep within the parameters given. At the moment this is just a dry run, an “assessment”, to ensure that everything will fit together for you. You can make any necessary adjustments as you go along and when satisfied you can start the job properly, avoiding unnecessary problems.