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Summer Check List

Boating season is finally here. Here are a few things you should do before heading out on the water for the first time.

Check your registration. Look at the state sticker on the side of your boat to ensure it is still in date. You will find a month printed in the center of the sticker. If your sticker has expired, check to make sure you did not receive it during the winter. Otherwise check with the SC DNR office in Columbia to get it renewed.

Charge your battery. During the cold months, your battery will lose most of its charge. Pull it from the boat, check the water level and put it on a slow trickle charge for 24-48 hours.

Install the Drain Plugs. If you had your engines drain plugs removed during winter storage, ensure they are in prior to the first trip to the lake.

Check the Engine. Take a close look at your engine, hoses and bilge area for any damage, cracks or leaks caused by freeze damage. Also check for any nesting animals in the engine compartment.

Don't forget the trailer. If your trailer fails, your entire day of boating can be ruined. Take a few minutes to do some general checks. Check your tire pressure. An under inflated tire can cause excessive tire wear and poor handling. Make certain your lug nuts are tight and your axle is properly lubricated. Make sure you check your lights to ensure they are working correctly.

Safety Equipment. Over time your safety equipment will wear out. Pull everything out for a close inspection. In SC you are required to have a properly fitting life jacket for each person on board, a throw cushion, a sounding device and fire extinguisher.

Gunnells Marine can assist you in all your summer preparations. Bring your boat in and our trained technicians will do a thorough inspection. You can then spend more time with your family on the water.