

## **A Prop Is A Prop...Or Is It??**

The selection of the correct prop is important to the performance of a boat. If you purchased a new boat and motor, the manufacturer should have installed the prop that will give you the best all around performance. A prop is designed to do two things. When accelerating it will get you out of the "Hole" or allow the boat to get on plane quickly or it can give you top end speed. You can not get the best of both worlds. Most props will put you somewhere in the middle.

Here is a quick look at the characteristics of some of the different type of props.

Two blade props have the least resistance yet the highest vibration. They are used mostly for smaller outboards and electric trolling motors.

Three blade props are the most popular design, offering good performance with moderate vibration at a reasonable cost.

Four blade props have very low vibration, good takeoff, and good performance at a higher cost.

Five blade props have the lowest vibration, excellent takeoff, and some reduction on top end speed, at an even higher cost.

The diameter of a prop is the width, in inches, of the circle made by the blade tips. In general, large diameter props grip the water and push heavy loads better. However your motor can only accept a certain diameter prop.

The pitch is the distance the prop should move in one revolution. Imagine a screw in a board. If you twist the screw one revolution and it goes in to the board one-inch, than that is your pitch. So a prop is like a screw going through the water. If it is designed to move 16 inches in one revolution, than its pitch is 16. The higher the pitch the faster the boat should go...if you had unlimited power. The lower the pitch the better hole shot you will have.

The great thing about props is that they can easily be repaired if you hit rocks or stumps. Just bring it in and we can have it rebuilt at a fraction of the cost of a new prop.