

# Ten Ways to Cut Fuel Costs



by Capt. Bob Cerullo

Old money pockets, J.P. Morgan, once said, "If you have to ask how much - you can't afford it!" That is easy for the owner of a succession of yachts, all named *Corsair*, which range up to more than 300 feet in length to say. We all tend to be a little extravagant when it comes to our boats, but there is no need to literally "burn money" when it comes to boat fuel economy.

You should ask how much fuel you are burning and make every effort to reduce the amount of fuel you waste every time you take out your boat. Here, then, are some things you can do to maximize your boat's fuel economy

so that you don't need to become a dock yachter.

(1) Dirty air intake filters and a poorly-tuned engine will reduce fuel economy drastically. Make sure your engine is tuned properly and all filters are clean. Take a look at your exhaust once the engine is warmed up. Any trace of black smoke may indicate a fuel-consuming problem in the engine.

(2) The condition of your boat's bottom is critical. Crusted barnacles and marine growth can reduce your boat's ability to flow through the water considerably. It takes a lot more effort and more fuel to push a boat with a dirty bottom through the water.

(3) A fuel flow meter tells you instantly how much fuel you are consuming. With it, you can determine easily the best cruising speed related to the weight of your boat and the sea conditions. A flow meter makes calculating fuel economy simple. It is also your early warning sign when something is wrong that is causing higher fuel consumption.

(4) Every pound you add to your boat requires power to move it. Cases of motor oil, chairs you never use, winterizing equipment that could be stored easily



Check to be sure trim tabs are clean and working.

in the garage, unneeded clothing, those special fender boards you only use when you go through the locks, or any other item you don't really need to bring along should be removed and stored, not transported every time you use your boat.

(5) You won't find a tugboat captain worth his salt going up the Hudson when the tide is running out if he possibly can avoid it. The reason is that it costs more fuel to fight the tide than it does to flow with it. Obtain a tide table and plan your goings and comings around the tide.

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Dirty props reduce fuel economy.

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