

## Water In The Fuel

By Graham Turner, Shrimper 438 (2003)

Do you own an early inboard Shrimper that suffers from water in the fuel? If so the following will be of interest.

My Shrimper (438) has suffered from small but annoying quantities of water in the fuel for many years which myself and the previous owner had put down to condensation in the fuel tank.

Last winter, some fairly complicated detective work showed that the water was not in fact condensation, but small quantities of rainwater that had found its way past the RWO inspection hatch above the fuel tank filler. With the movement of the boat on her mooring water found its way past the joint between the fuel filler assembly and the top of the tank and thus into the fuel.

Rectification is very straightforward. Firstly, obtain a new 100mm RWO inspection hatch from your local chandler (2009 price £7.33). The latest hatch is an improved design and incorporates an 'O' ring seal into the lid, thus ensuring a 100% waterproof fit. It is a straight 1 for 1 swap, but remember to bed it down onto a suitable sealant.

Whilst the hatch is removed, check and renew the seal between the filler cap and the tank. This is not quite so straightforward, but proceed as follows: Unscrew the fuel filler cap and carefully unscrew the 3 countersunk screws that attach the assembly to the top of the tank and lift clear. The utmost care needs to be taken to ensure you don't drop anything into the fuel tank! If, like mine, no seal is fitted on top of the tank, you will need to make one from jointing material. Your local marine engineer might give you an offcut, which will need to be marked out and cut to size with a small pair of scissors. Then remove any burrs from the top of the tank with a small file, again being careful that nothing is dropped into the tank. Coat the joint you have made with a fuel resistant jointing compound such as 'Hylomar' (available at motor accessory shops) and then re-assemble the whole thing.

Since carrying out this work last winter I have not had a single drop of water in the fuel filter.