

Vessel maintenance

About two-thirds of all emergency calls to Marine Rescue NSW are because of problems with the boat's engine, battery or fuel.

Your boat's engine and battery should be serviced regularly, especially before the start of the summer boating season.

This includes changing the fuel, oil and oil filter, checking the engine, gearbox and propeller; charging the battery, testing the electronics and making sure you have the required safety equipment.

Don't forget to check and service your trailer as well as your boat

If you are not confident to do this yourself, have your boat and trailer professionally serviced by a qualified mechanic.

For fuel, apply the rule of thirds before setting out – a third for the trip out, a third for the return, and the rest in reserve and carry some spare fuel in an approved container.

Finally, to stop your boat sinking after you launch your boat, be sure to replace the bungs before you set off.