



Boating at Hillsboro Club By Chuck Purse

Hillsboro Club has a new amenity for its members, a beautiful dock along the southern edge of the property. Carole and I decided to take advantage of our new facility and shipped our 30' fishing boat Coquina from Long Island Sound to Pompano Beach for the 2014-2015 winter season. We've had a lot of fun so far – this is the first of a few articles on what we've learned.

Using our New Dock

A key item to cover early on was how and where to permanently store the boat. We found and are pleased with a dry stack marina located about three miles or 20 minutes cruise south of the Club. There is another dry stack marina to consider that is closer to the Hillsboro Inlet.

While staying at Hillsboro, we used our new dock extensively for both overnight storage and as a jumping off point on either side of a fishing trip or cruise. Provided the winds remained under ten mph and did not come from the southeast, overnighting on the dock was fine. However, a southeast wind with any force builds up a swell that will come straight through the Inlet leaving the dock exposed to potentially damaging waves. The dock posts have a protective fender system applied to them that does a good job in calm to mild conditions. We found that using three or four additional fenders helped to adequately protect the boat overnight in mild to moderate conditions.

On average we have three to four feet of tide at the Inlet. The obvious current that develops when the tide is running needs to be managed. We chose to position our boat at the eastern end of our dock closer to the Lighthouse. The current is less intense here because the Inlet is much wider at this point. We used a traditional four-line tie up pattern with well-set spring lines being very important. Using longer lines is important so that the tidal movement can be better managed without the need for frequent adjustments.

Upcoming Articles

Over the coming weeks, you'll see additional articles on Boating at Hillsboro Club. It's a blast to be on the Florida boating learning curve and to have the chance to share some of what we've learned with our membership. The Pompano Beach/Ft Lauderdale/Miami area is foremost for the boating/fishing industry in the USA and there is much to explore. Future topics include fishing, cruising, area services and periodic attractions.