

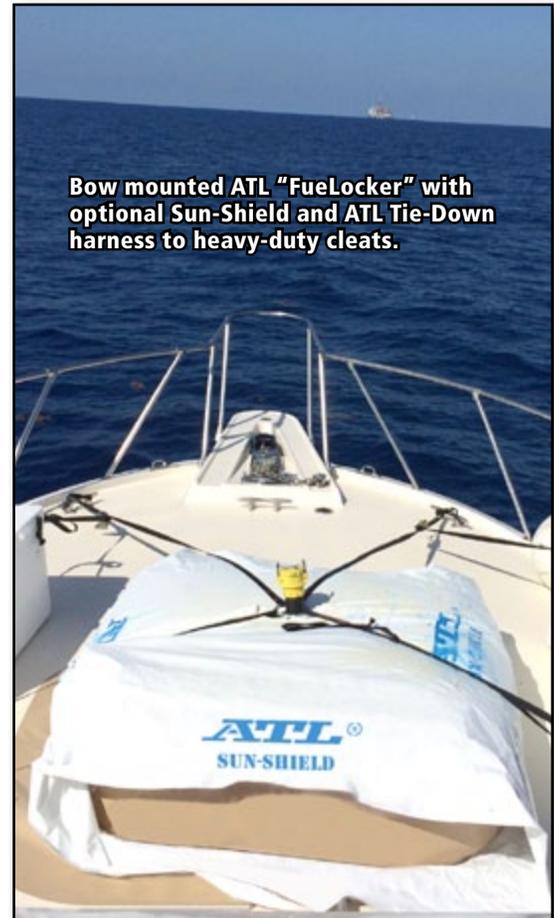
# **BOW & FOREDECK LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS**

## **CAUTIONS**

“Aqua-Flex”, “Aqui-Fer”, “Petro-Flex” and “FuelLocker” bladders can, and have been, used very successfully on the bows of many power boats. Most frequently a stern location is chosen, but bow-mounting often helps the craft’s balance and prevents “bow-rise.”

However, before choosing a fore-deck location, some accommodations need to be considered:

- 1.) Check with the boat-builder to assure your foredeck will support the full weight of ATL’s bladder tank. Every 100 gallons of fuel weighs about 650 lbs. and water about 850 lbs. Petro-Flex and Aqua-Flex “pillow” bladders distribute this load over a wider area than do FuelLockers and Aqui-Fers; hence the former may be your best choice.
- 2.) If the vessel’s structural support is adequate, and in most cases it is, then the next concern is “tethering” the flex-tank to prevent its movement on deck, while in port, or underway.
- 3.) ATL recommends the use of its KS-198 and KS-199 “Tie-down Kits” with high-tenacity straps. However, do not secure the ATL tie-down harness to bow railings, door hardware, man-ways or other weak attachment points. **Four heavy-duty deck cleats spaced at 90° increments, and located to assure a downward restraint force, will form the ideal arrangement.** Very Important: For heavy seas or high speeds, more restraints like cargo nets may be necessary. See photo below. Also see ATL Bulletin #DS-548 pgs. 2, 3, 4 which apply to both fuel bladders and water bladders.



**Bow mounted ATL “FuelLocker” with optional Sun-Shield and ATL Tie-Down harness to heavy-duty cleats.**



**Customer-devised net and strap system**

**For sturdy retention in heavy seas or at higher speeds**

- 4.) In choosing your “aux” fuel or water bladder, consider whether this filled flex-tank will, in any way, obscure the Captain’s or Helmsman’s forward vision. “Pillow” bladders are low in profile compared to “Lockers” and hence Petro-Flex and Aqua-Flex may be a better choice to minimize any view obstruction.
- 5.) Larger fuel and water bladders (over 100 gal.), located on an uneven foredeck, may also require a cargo net, belting or other restraint system to secure them adequately (see 6 below). Always transport ATL bladder tanks either full or empty; partial loads are to be avoided.

6.) If questions arise in evaluating, purchasing, positioning or using your ATL flex-tank, then contact ATL for advice or direction. Usually we can assist, but consulting a local maritime engineer or experienced outfitter is always the best choice as every craft and circumstance differs.

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