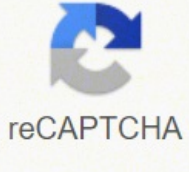




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## Minn kota freshwater trolling motor in saltwater

Electric trolling motors help anglers catch more fish. Whether you are using it to reposition your boat for the perfect cast or you are tracking down finicky trout with trolling spoons, the electric trolling motor has made its mark on freshwater fishing.Those same benefits have also caught the eye of avid saltwater anglers. I personally enjoy fishing saltwater estuaries in the Pacific Northwest and an electric trolling motor could make fishing much easier. However, I've heard that using a freshwater trolling motor in saltwater is a great way to kill the motor. But is that true? I decided to do some research and asked some fishing buddies to weigh in on the subject. So, can you use a freshwater trolling motor in saltwater? Yes. A freshwater trolling motor can be used without immediate damage in saltwater. However, there is increased risk for corrosion on metal components. Apply a thin coat of oil or grease to exposed metal and rinse the trolling motor with freshwater after using it in saltwater. Keep in mind that most manufacturer warranties will not cover damage from saltwater use.Now, let's go over what I've discovered and why you may want to invest in an electric trolling motor for your next saltwater outing.A note on manufacturer warrantiesBefore you consider using a freshwater trolling motor in a saltwater environment, always review the manufacturer's warranty. Companies like MinnKota and MotorGuide void the warranties on freshwater trolling motors used in saltwater. If the warranty is important to you, don't use it in saltwater. Always consult the user manual and contact the manufacturer if you have concerns about using it in saltwater. More than likely, your motor will be fine in saltwater if the proper precautions are taken to protect it. Ultimately, you should use your own judgement based on the model of trolling motor you have and how often you plan to use it in saltwater.Protecting your trolling motor from corrosionFreshwater trolling motors are not made with corrosion resistance in mind. It's just too expensive to add stainless steel components and additional rust proof coatings if it's not needed. Freshwater does not cause metal to rust easily, assuming the motor has a chance to dry between each use. Saltwater, on the other hand, is a different story. Even short exposures can cause severe corrosion on unprotected metal components. That's why following a few simple steps before you get on the water can add years of life to your trolling motor.Coat exposed metal with grease or oil to reduce water contact. Corrosion preventatives like WD-40, Corrosion Block spray or marine grade grease are suitable for most applications. I find Corrosion Block spray to be the best all around rust preventative for all metal parts and electrical connections on a trolling motor. One 12 oz can last for many trips and is fairly inexpensive on Amazon. It's also ideal for other marine applications. Keep some on hand and you won't be sorry.Generously coat the mounting brackets, prop nut and pin, shaft, metal fasteners and any electrical connections with your choice of oil. I use a dab of marine grade grease on transom lock down bolts when I feel extra protection is needed.Utilizing corrosion resistant products goes a long ways in protecting freshwater motors against the ravages of saltwater. With that in mind, never moor a boat with the trolling motor left in saltwater for extended periods of time. Eventually, irreparable damage will occur.The importance of rinsing with freshwaterIf there is only one thing you do to extend the life of your trolling motor, simply rinse it with freshwater after using it in saltwater. All it takes is a quick rinse at home with a bucket or garden hose. Start on the shaft and work your way down to the lower unit and prop. Be careful to avoid spraying the control head. Forcefully spraying the control head may expose sensitive electronics to water. Instead, use a damp rag to wipe down all other surfaces.Saltwater corrosion starts immediately after contact with unprotected metal. The best way to stop rust before it starts is to rinse with freshwater as soon as you pull your boat out of the water. Keep a jug or plastic bottle filled with freshwater in your vehicle. Once the boat is back on the trailer, give the trolling motor a quick splash using the bottled water. You can then do a more thorough cleaning at home. Spending the extra time to apply corrosion blocking spray and rinsing the motor with freshwater will go a long ways in providing years of trouble free use.Damage to electronic componentsOne of the misconceptions I hear a lot is that saltwater will damage the electronics in freshwater trolling motors. It's generally thought that saltwater shorts out power connections. The truth is, the lower unit on trolling motors are sealed to prevent leaks in both salt and freshwater. Electrical connections exposed to water will short out when power is applied whether it's fresh or saltwater. The problem is a leaky seal, not the type of water.Now, I will admit that saltwater is harder on rubber seals than freshwater so premature leakage may occur if you don't first protect the motor as described earlier.You also should avoid excessive salt spray and splashing on the control head of a freshwater trolling motor. Many freshwater motors don't add water tight seals to the control head so electrical damage can occur. This is a precaution you should take whether you fish in fresh or saltwater.Real world testingI know several anglers who use their freshwater trolling motors for occasional saltwater use. Usually 3 to 4 times a season. Not one of them has had any problems over the years. The motors function normally and with added care, corrosion is kept to a minimum. Only one person had rust problems with their transom mount bolts but they admitted it was a lack of maintenance and grease application. Another angler warned that high end trolling motors with automatic stowing or lift-assist can drag saltwater up into sensitive areas of the motor as it lifts out of the water. For those types of trolling motors it is not recommend to use freshwater models in saltwater.I've used an inexpensive MinnKota Endura, purchased 15 years ago, in saltwater several times a year. It still functions flawlessly to this day. I firmly believe it's lasted so long because I took steps to protect it from corrosion by applying protective oil and rinsing with freshwater.What about constant saltwater use? It's a fair bet that you can keep a freshwater trolling motor functioning in saltwater even with constant use. But, if that is your plan, just consider upgrading to a saltwater trolling motor and spare yourself the headache.Trolling motors designed for saltwaterThe most popular makers of trolling motors like MinnKota, MotorGuide and Watersnake have recognized the popularity of trolling motors for saltwater use. Therefore, each manufacturer offers a saltwater line of motors for anglers looking to use their boats in protected bays, brackish sloughs and other coastal environments.Here's what makes saltwater trolling motors more durable and safer to use in these harsh conditions.Corrosion resistant internal and external componentsFully encapsulated electronics (lower unit, auto pilot components and control head) Special corrosion resistant coatingsAll of these features come at a premium price but it may be worth it for long term durability. Standard maintenance is still required to keep the motor in working order. Manufacturers still recommend rinsing all trolling motors with freshwater after use.Final thoughtsUsing a freshwater trolling motor in saltwater is not the end of the world. With general care and some added precautions you can use your freshwater trolling motor without much trouble. For those of you who need more robust trolling motors for harsh conditions, check out the MinnKota Riptide motors and MotorGuide Saltwater series to get the best saltwater protection. Has anyone here ever use A freshwater trolling motor in saltwater and if so how long does it last? I have A minnkota transom mount with tiller. 0 · Share on TwitterShare on Facebook As an Amazon affiliate, we earn from qualifying purchases.Here's the truth:Yes, a freshwater trolling motor can be used in saltwater. However, you must clean and protect your trolling motor before and after. Choosing the Right Trolling MotorDid you know getting into the best fishing spots with minimal noise will boost your chances of catching fish? This is one of the main reasons why trolling motors are used. They are a source of boat propulsion with lots of ease and minimal hand work. Depending on where you need to use your boat, you can purchase the appropriate motor to suit your needs. The main selection for the trolling motors depends on the mode of steering and the water type. Here is a in depth trolling motor guide that I have written.From possessing fish finders to using high tech GPS advancements, trolling motors have seen improvement and adoption over time by all those who enjoy good sails. Trolling motors are precisely high-tech replacements of an oar. It is an outboard powered engine meant for more natural boat propulsion.Trolling motors help in positioning the boat in the best form and spot, and when used for fishing, this angle is best to cast. Based on the control, the motor is classified as foot-control, hand-control or wireless remote control. These motors are further classified to salty water or fresh water motors depending on the water body they are used. The main difference between the fresh water and salt water motor is the material they are made of. For saltwater use, the motor compartments are made of material that repels corrosion brought by the corrosive properties of the salt water in the ocean. Water type thus plays a critical role in determining which type of motor to get. SaleBestseller No. 1 AQUOS Haswing White 12V 55LBS 54inch Bow Mount Trolling Motor with Remote Control, Quick Release Bracket for Inflatable Boat Kayak Bass Boat Aluminum Boat Fishing, Freshwater/Saltwater Use AQUOS Haswing Cayman B (NOT GPS) 12V 55LBS 54inch Bow Mount Trolling Motor is designed and engineered to run quieter than ever before. With variable speed will let you dial in your desired speed and provide more precise, smoother adjustments plus improved control. Moreover the variable speed is the lower power consumption of the motor, it can increase battery life quite a bit at any speed. Also the trolling motor suitable for boats weighing up to 2750LBS. Max boat length (suggestion) 18ft.The remote control fits into the palm of your hand easily or can be attached around your neck with a lanyard. Conveniently control the motor on the boat or shore-side with the farthest 164 ft distance, meanwhile the remote can be recharged with a USB cable on power bank when necessary. Quick release bracket can help you to install/remove the motor easily. There need at least a 13.7 x 8 inch flat surface to install the trolling motor.Cruise control (NOT SPOT LOCK) keeps your boat at the desired speed by using remote control to press on the speed up or down button then you can focus on fishing all the way, but you might have to manually correct the direction from time to time due to wind or current, meanwhile you can adjust the speed when you need. And if you turn the motor 180 degrees of rotation and it will push the boat in reverse direction.AQUOS Haswing Cayman 55LBS 54inch shaft bow mount trolling motor can be set up both in fresh water and salt water, it is designed to have excellent corrosion resistance, using a sacrificial anode that protects important metal components. The 54-inch Aluminum Alloy Shaft (available 44.3 inch) makes it easy for different types boat, meantime please hold on the motor shaft before adjust motor depth to avoid slide.Comfortable to carry the motor with the ergonomic lifting handle, makes you take the motor off the car or boat effortless in every using time. And the stow and deploy pedal can be depressed with a single hand or foot and makes transitioning between in the water and on the boat quickly, so you can save more strength to reel in the big ones. The easy-to-use depth collar lets you change depths quickly, simply, securely. When you find depth, locks in tight to keep your motor right where you want it. Bestseller No. 2 Minn Kota 1358894 Terrova Freshwater Electric Steer Bow-Mount Trolling Motor with Universal Sonar 2 & i-Pilot GPS, 80 lbs Thrust, 60" Shaft The Minn Kota Terrova features an easy-to-deploy system of fallaway ramps that effortlessly slide the trolling motor into the water, plus a spring-loaded Lift-Assist design for easy stowing.A low-profile electric foot pedal offers two steering options (heel/toe pedal and leftright steering buttons) and includes Spot-Lock activation, rotary speed control dial, momentary/constant on toggle, and AutoPilot on/off toggle.Using GPS to lock onto fishing spots with Spot-Lock, record paths, and command speed, the i-Pilot Link system allows you to control your motor from the touchscreen remote or from a virtual remote on your Humminbird fish finder (sold separately).Offering optimal sonar performance to help you find fish, the built-in Universal Sonar 2 keeps your transducer and wiring completely concealed and protected, running everything through the trolling motor's shaft with shielded connectors.This Minn Kota Terrova has a 60-inch shaft length, features 80 pounds of thrust (24 volts), and includes a multi-function foot pedal, heading sensor, mounting hardware and cabling, and i-Pilot GPS system. SaleBestseller No. 3 Haswing Black Cayman 12V 55lbs 48 inch Bow Mount Electric Trolling Motor Lightweight, Variable Speed, with Foot Control/Quick Release Bracket for Bass Fishing Boats Freshwater/Saltwater Haswing Cayman 48 INCH Shaft Bow Mount Trolling Motor is designed and engineered to run quieter than ever before. It's so quiet that the fish will never hear you coming. With variable speed will let you dial in your desired speed and provide more precise, smoother adjustments plus improved control. Moreover the variable speed is the lower power consumption of the motor, it can increase battery life quite a bit at any speed. Also the trolling motor suitable for boats weighing up to 2750LBSThe wireless remote control fits into the palm of your hand easily or can be attached around your neck with a lanyard. Conveniently control the motor on the boat or shoreside with the farthest 164 ft distance, meanwhile the wireless remote can be recharged with a USB cable on power bank when necessary. Quick release bracket can help you to install/remove the motor easily. The 14.7 ft cable wired foot control, can not only release your hands when fishing but also provide precise, easy operation.Cruise control keeps your boat at the desired speed by using wireless remote control to press on the speed up or down button then you can focus on fishing all the way, but you might have to manually correct the direction from time to time due to wind or current, meanwhile you can adjust the speed when you need. And if you turn the motor 180 degrees of rotation and it will push the boat in reverse direction.Haswing Cayman 55lbs bow mount trolling motor can be set up both in fresh water and salt water, it's designed to have excellent corrosion resistance, using a sacrificial anode that protects important metal components. The 48-inch aluminum shaft makes it easy for different types boat, meantime please hold on the motor shaft before adjust motor depth to avoid slide.Comfortable to carry the motor with the ergonomic lifting handle, makes you take the motor off the car or boat effortless in every using time. And the stow and deploy pedal can be depressed with a single hand or foot and makes transitioning between in the water and on the boat quickly, so you can save more strength to reel in the big ones. The easy-to-use depth collar lets you change depths quickly, simply, securely. When you find depth, locks in tight to keep your motor right where you want it.What are the difference between saltwater and a fresh water motor?There are some critical differences between these two motors that one needs to know before purchasing a trolling motor.Freshwater has a dissolved salt content of less than 1%. The density of the salt is much higher in salt water, but fresh water is not entirely devoid of the salt. Salty water covers about 71% of the earth. From these statistics, it's clear that in one way or another, the ratio of boaters on salty water vs. fresh water is quite high, so one might end up needing to use their freshwater motor in a brackish water body.One main difference between the two motors is the sacrificial anode, which is a small metal tab on the bottom. This comes in handy when it comes to the performance and durability of the motor. In salty water, the anode is covered with material to prevent it from rusting easily. Brackish water is highly corrosive, and this covering is used to avoid the motor from rusting easily.Can a Freshwater Trolling Motor be used in Saltwater?The answer to this is a yes or no, or somewhat it depends. The main disadvantage of using motors in salty water is that salt corrodes metal and shorten the lifespan of the motor. Salty water trolling motors have some enhancements, meant to suit their use in the high salt density water mass. These include stainless steel hardware, sealed electrical connections and an advanced painting process for improved corrosion protection. When using the freshwater motor in saltwater, ensure there is a service that is used to match the protective enhancement used in the salty water directly or indirectly.How to protect a freshwater motor after use in salt water.Some of the methods below are more permanent than others. The protective method of choice is highly dependent on why you would want to use the fresh water motor in saltwater and for how long.If it is just for a quick one time sail, then just rinsing the salt off would be appropriate whereas if you want to make a shift to use your boat more in a salty water ocean, a more permanent solution would be preferred.Run fresh water on the motor after use in salt waterThis will help you flush out any remaining salt deposits in the motorAttach sacrificial nodes to the motorThese are pieces of metal used to prevent corrosion. The anode will corrode such that the motor is spared from the corrosion. Monitor the anode and replace it regularly to protect the engine from rusting.Never leave the boat submerged in salty water when the boat is mooredFor more protection, thoroughly rinse the motor with fresh water after every use in salt water to prevent rusting.Paint the metal surfacePainting is one way to prevent metal from rusting. You can apply temporary paint on the motor when you want to use it in salt water and can then quickly go back to the previous form of the motor by removing the paint.Pain, however, is vulnerable to degradation thus one needs to be on the lookout to apply paint whenever it chips out.Use anodizationAnodization uses electric current giving metal a protective coating which then prevents the metals from corroding. This create a corrosion and rust resistance layer on the metal. This process changes the structure at the top of the service and you can do this if you want to use the fresh motor on saltwater for longer timelines.Use salt removal sprays Click Image to See at AmazonThese sprays remove salts and suspend rusting more quickly. It is a refillable pump-spray bottle that is filled with chemicals to minimize the rusting.There are different types of salt-off sprays that can be sued.Final thoughtsThe decision to use the freshwater motor on salt water is highly dependent on for how long and also if you are willing to go the extra mile of observing the protection to prevent corrosion. This follow up is a bit tasking and one quick solution would be buying the salt water motor instead. You can however just use your fresh water motor on salt water if this is just a one-time thing and quickly follow up with the protective measures.Go ahead and try one of these protective method if you are looking to spice up your boating or fishing adventures cutting across different water bodies while still maintaining the durability of your motor.Last update on 2022-02-03 / Affiliate links / Images from Amazon Product Advertising API

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