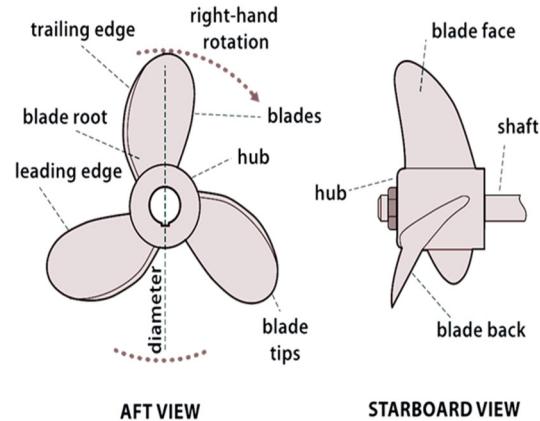


## Prop Walk

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The propeller on a single screw boat almost always has a right hand pitch.



This means that when the prop rotates clockwise, or to the right, there is forward thrust. But there is also a slight sideways thrust component. This can be your friend or your enemy,

When going forward the sideways thrust component is to port. This “walks” the stern to starboard. Thus, the boat’s bow will have a slight tendency to go to port.

When you are going ahead at speed, the effect of prop walk is slight due to the flow (wash) from the prop over the rudder. In reverse, at slow speeds, it can be a different story as there is almost no wash over the rudder. The sideways thrust is to starboard and the stern will move to the port. The effect can be very noticeable.

You will notice that most boats tend to dock port side to. This is especially true for yacht club launches. The prop walk effect of a right hand prop is why the launch driver can look so good. At the dock, when he puts it in reverse, the stern of the launch moves closer to the dock for a nice landing.