**Replacing The Skeg Cable On A Pre 2010 Wilderness Systems 165 Tempest Kayak**

The skeg cable runs through a ¼” id poly tube.

On the skeg end, the cable stopper is made of ¼” brass with a small set screw to secure the cable.

To remove the cable, loosen the Phillips screw on the skeg slider so that the cable can slide backwards. This allows you to move the skeg farther down than its normal fully deployed position.

Pull the skeg down to access the cable attachment fixture on the skeg

Loosen the set screw by inserting a 1/16” Allen wrench and turning it counter clockwise until the cable end can be removed from the skeg.

Retighten the Phillips screw on the slider and move the slider as far forward as possible.

Loosen the screw, move the slider as far back as possible and retighten

Move the slider as far forward as possible and tighten the screw again

Repeat the process until you can grasp the inner rod attached to the cable

Pull the cable forward, removing it completely. **Do not attempt to pull it out from the skeg end**.

If you need to replace the inner tube that slides inside the outer tube at the slider, try removing the inner tube for re-use

Do this by drilling a hole in a1/4” piece of metal. The hole should be just large enough to thread the cable throught but not large enough tor the stainless steel tube to pass.

I pulled the tube off of the cable by drilling a hole in a piece of ¼” aluminum plate.

I then put the plate in a vice and threaded the cable through the hole.

I used a come along (winch) fastened securely and then ratcheted it until I pulled the cable out of the tube.

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The skeg cable passes through a ¼” x 28 threads per inch stainless steel nipple that is fastened to the top of the skeg box when viewed with the kayak upright.. The nipple is approximately 1 ¾” long and is threaded about 1 ¼” with the remainder smooth. To replace the stainless steel nipple, first pull the poly cable tube off the unthreaded end of the nipple.

Remove the nipple by turning the ¼”x28 thread nut on the top of the skeg box (inside of the rear compartment). If you are lucky, the nut inside the skeg box will unthread. If this doesn’t work, you will have to figure out another way to remove the nipple. In my case, the nipple had broken in half so removal was easy.

Finding a replacement nipple is a challenge. I found no suppliers for the part. See suppliers’ list at the end of this document.

I bought a 12” length of ¼” stainless steel tubing and painstakingly threaded it with a ¼”x28 tpi die.

You might find a pre-threaded nipple from a cable rigging supplier. Cut to size. (See Suppliers)

To simplify installation through the skeg box, try to find a 1/4”x2” nipple that is threaded the entire length. That way, you can thread the nut on one end of the nipple and push it from inside the skeg box to the inside of the kayak.

Make sure to place gaskets on both sides of the hole in the skeg to avoid leaks.

Unable to find a nipple threaded the entire length, my plan of attack was different.

I used a ¼”x12” carriage bolt with a ¼”x20 tpi thread (not ¼”x28 tpi thread). That allowed me to thread the ¼”x28 tpi nut on to the ¼”x20 tpi carriage bolt and insert it in the skeg box. I just wanted to start the nut, not thread it very far. Once that I caught the thread on the 28 tpi nut, I turned the carriage bolt counter-clockwise until it unscrewed from the nut.

Using that method, I was able to hold the nut in the skeg box in position while I tightened the nipple on to which I had already threaded another ¼” x 28 tpi nut as far up the nipple as possible.

Once that I started the 28 tpi nut in the skeg box, I continued to turn the inside 28 tpi nut inside until I could see the nipple extending beyond the skeg box nut. Extend it too far and it will interfere with the ability to retract the skeg.

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With the skeg box nipple securely installed, it is time to rethread the skeg cable.

This must be done from the front, not the rear. The 1/8” inner tube won’t line up with the outer tube if you thread the cable from the rear.

Make sure that you thread the cable through the slider knob. Use the slider knob to align the1/8” inner slider tube with the1/4” outer one and guide the cable into the poly tubing.

Thread all of the cable into the poly tubing, allowing the excess to come out the end that you have pulled loose from the skeg box nipple.

Thread the cable through the nipple.

You will secure it to the skeg with the brass cable attachment fixture on the skeg.

Determine how long the cable needs to be. You will have to cut it to length. Be careful how you cut it. if your use a hack saw or diagonal cutters, you run the risk of fraying the cable, making it impossible to thread into the cable attachment fixture.

I first coated the end of the cable with Super Glue and then used a grinder to cut it to the desired length.

You must have the skeg snapped on the pivot point before you cut the cable. If you try to attach the skeg after you cut the cable, you won’t have enough play in the cable to attach the skeg on the pivot point

Assuming that you cut the cable to the proper length, you can now adjust the slider knob so that the slider moves the skeg full range from retracted to fully deployed.

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**Suppliers**

Stainless Steel Skeg Wire:   
<http://topkayaker.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=73_138&products_id=1989> $19.95

Cable Attachment Fixture + Set Screw  
<http://topkayaker.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=73_138&products_id=1333> $24.99

Pre 2010 Skeg Control Tube Set  
<http://topkayaker.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=73_138&products_id=171> $38.99  
(You can cut the ¼” stainless steel tube off at 2” and use it for the skeg box nipple)

All Compatible Parts  
<http://topkayaker.com/index.php?main_page=advanced_search_result&search_in_description=1&keyword=PRE2010WSSKEG&x=40&y=6>

Possible alternative to 2” nipple  
Horiznext Stainless Steel Compression Tube Fitting, Union, 1/4" Tube OD. Straight Adapter  
<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07P77NGD7/ref=ppx_od_dt_b_asin_title_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1>

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