

DON'T MISS *the* BOAT

*A guide to sporting craft, motors and rigging
for fishermen and budget-conscious mariners.*

BY LARRY DAHLBERG AND JOHN FIELD

Nothing makes fishing more fun and satisfying than having just the right boat. And, thanks to heavy competition for the fishing boat market, there are better values and more options available to the boat buyer than ever before.

In fact, if you do a little research, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find out that the right boat for you is more affordable, and easier to transport and launch, than you ever imagined.

In order to get the most out of a new boat, it's important to determine what type of water and what kind of fishing you'll be doing. If you fish everything from big lakes to small ones plus trailer all over the place, your needs are going to be a great deal different than the person who only floats small rivers.

If you go shopping without defining your needs, it's quite possible you'll end up with whatever the salesperson happens to be favoring that week, what's

most popular in the area, or worse yet, what he or she is long on. Don't be afraid to ask what might seem like dumb questions or be unconventional in how you choose your hull or rig your boat's accessories.

Everyone's fishing needs are different. Often, under special circumstances, unconventional approaches are best.

Obviously your decision is always dictated by budget, but, in any case, the key decisions involve choices regarding hull style, boat length, horsepower, tiller versus console, glass versus aluminum,

and, of course, the electronics package.

This special section is devoted to providing you with information to help you with some of those choices.

Here are a few tips to begin with:

- Never skimp on a boat trailer. One size bigger is better than one size too small. A trailer with roller bunks is fabulous for launching and loading at second-rate landings. (If you do a lot of lake hopping on unimproved landings, a roller bunk trailer coupled with a V or semi-V hull aluminum boat is a must.)

- No trolling motor is ever too large for a boat; you can always run them on slow. Buy the most powerful one you can afford. You will never regret it.

- Lots of boats don't have adequate storage. Sit in any prospective new boat and try to visualize where you'll store



Bayliner 2002 Trophy



Tracker Marine Bass Buggy 18

the things you usually bring along.

- A 14-foot boat with a 10- or 20-hp motor and the right electronics package is a great all-around fishing machine.

Shapes of Things

Although they can be subdivided into a dozen or more categories, fishing boat hulls have four basic shapes, each offering different advantages:

Flat bottom. Designed for shallow draft and stability. Very poor in rough water.

V-bottom. Designed for soft, safe, dry

ride in rough water. Amount of depth in the V varies. Disadvantages are low performance, and lack of lateral stability.

Tri-hull. Designed for stability, especially in the front casting deck area. Main disadvantage is rough and sometimes wet ride.

Tunnel hull. Highly specialized to allow the prop to run closer to the surface. In some boats this translates to speed; in others, it is used to allow high speed running in shallow water with less risk of damage to the prop.

Many of today's hull designs incorporate elements from two or three of these categories in an effort to maximize the benefits and reduce the disadvantages of each pure form.

From a materials standpoint, fiberglass, because of the way it can be fabricated, allows a great deal more leeway in hull design than aluminum. But both materials make great hulls. As a rule, aluminum is lighter and usually less expensive; fiberglass delivers a softer ride and is quieter.

Use the chart on the opposite page to estimate the cost of upgrading to a larger motor in a pre-rigged package, or to help estimate the total price of a custom package you design yourself.

Prices will vary from region to region but this will get you in the ball park.

Also, some manufacturers market identical horsepowers with a choice of different blocks. A 40-hp motor could vary as much as \$1,000 from the same manufacturer, depending on whether it has two or four cylinders.

Our retail sources say that imported motors in 1993 will be priced about 10 percent higher than domestics, but many of these come standard with stainless steel props and extended warranties.

Outboard Offerings

There are many styles, types and features of outboards, but that's not a problem, that's an opportunity.

Console remote controls provide the best visibility and comfort for fast and rough travel on the water. Tiller controls cost less, and give unequalled maneuver-

ability in small boats navigating winding rivers and in back-trolling situations.

Another type of outboard for the river or flats fisherman is a jet-drive outboard.

Four stroke outboards are especially smooth at low speeds, produce the least emission, and are amazingly quiet. Some motors use Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI), others use carburetors in combination with "smart" ignitions. Here's an introduction to several outboard brands and what they're offering in 1993.

YAMAHA: Yamaha introduces Through-Tube Steering on it's four-stroke 9.9-hp motors for ease and economy of rigging steering options.

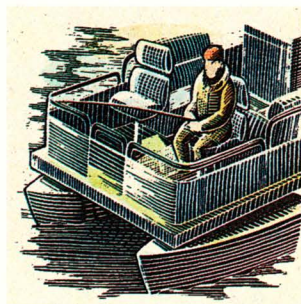
Yamaha has a new C30 designed for pontoon and small fishing boats with the shallows in mind. Its low drag lower

unit provides better cooling. The C40 now has power tilt.

Yamaha now adds the Pro V 115 to its Pro lineup. It features a 20 amp charging system and a newly designed lower unit with a larger cooling inlet for better shallow applications.

Singles producing 2 to 4 hp, and two-cylinder 6 to 25 hp are the 1993 portable outboards being offered. Yamaha also has several 9.9-hp four-stroke motors in their sailboat auxiliary line. Their three-cylinder mid-range motors offer a choice from 40 to 90 hp, including Jet Drives from 28 to 65 hp for use in shallow waters.

Yamaha's V4s include 115- and 130-hp motors. The 130-hp motor is offered with counter rotation. Yamaha's V6 includes outboards from



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ILLUSTRATIONS BY KYLE RAETZ

Popular Packages

Price Category (\$7,000-\$9,000)

Model	Length/Beam	Hull Type	Steering	Max hp/Speed	Passengers	Package Price	hp included/Top Speed	Towing Weight
Quantum 1600 XB	15' 8" x 6'2"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	Console	NA/NA	4	\$8,595	70hp/NA	1390lb
Crestliner 160 Tournament	16'5" x 78"	V (aluminum)	tiller	60hp/35mph+	4	\$8,900	50hp/30mph+	1300lb
Fisher Backwater Sp	15'10" x 70"	Mod-V	tiller	40hp/NA	3	\$7,595	40hp/NA	1100lb
Tracker Marine Fishin' Barge 21	21' x 8"	Pontoon (aluminum)	console	90hp/NA	13	\$7,395	25hp/NA	1698lb
Bayliner Classic Fish 'n' Ski 1604	16'3" x 76"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	console	90hp/40 mph	4	\$2,595	70hp/35mph	1600lb

Price Category (\$9,000-\$11,000)

Lund 1700 Pro Sport	17'2" x 85"	Deep-V (aluminum)	console	90hp/42mph	6	\$10,900	60hp/35mph	1600lb
ProCraft PF1600T	16'6" x 82"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	tiller	60hp/NA	4	\$10,650	60hp/NA	1600lb
Tracker Marine Nitro 170 DC	17' x 78 1/2"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	console	120hp/NA	4	\$9,194	120hp/NA	1934lb
Grumman Super Pro Deluxe	19'	Deck (aluminum)	console	120hp/NA	7	\$11,399	70hp/31mph	2250 lb

Price Category (Over \$11,000)

Ranger Fish 'n' Ski 372 Apache	17'10" x 88"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	console	175hp/55mph+	6	\$19,000	150hp/55mph	2500lb
Astro F-18 Quickfire	18'4" x 89"	Mod-V (fiberglass)	console	175hp/NA	4	\$22,545	150hp/NA	2500lb
Crestliner 2485 LSI	24' x 102"	Pontoon	console	120hp/30mph+	14	\$11,500	40hp/NA	2500lb
Grumman Sport Deck 19	19'	Deck (aluminum)	console	120hp/NA	7	\$11,399	70hp/31mph	2250lb
Bayliner 2002	20'1" x 96"	Mod-V	console	200hp/50mph+	6	\$19,995	175hp/50mph	2840lb



Grumman Sport Deck 19. Below: Mercury 150 XR6

150 to 250 hp. All sizes of the V6 are available with counter rotation.

SUZUKI: Suzuki announces the new Bass 150 with EFI. It is designed for quick acceleration with its low gear ratio and special port timing.

It has dual spark plug heads and a 350 watt alternator. Suzuki's 225 EFI V6 is available with counter rotation in '93.

Also new are the more comfortable and safer binnacle controls, and new easy-to-read analog instruments.

Suzuki's smallest range are the compact motors from 2 to 15 hp. The mid-range motors, ranging from 25 to 85 hp, has two- and three-cylinder designs. Suzuki has two V4s that are offered with 90 and 100 hp and two in-line fours producing 115 and 140 hp.

MERCURY AND MARINER: Both have released a new 3.3-hp kicker, which only weighs 27.5 pounds and has a built-in 1.5-gallon gas tank.

Mercury is now offering EFI on their

150 XR1. Mariner calls it their 150 Magnum EFI. Mercury has a new 150 XR6 with a larger gearcase. Mariner has a redesigned 150; the 150 Magnum III featuring two gearcase and ration options. Mariner also has the 135 and 175 CXL models now available with counter rotation.

Both brands offer single cylinder outboards from 2.5 to 15 hp for the smallest craft. Two cylinder motors from 8 to 25 hp are also available from both manufacturers.

The popular, smooth four-cylinder 40-hp and the three-cylinder 50- and 60-hp motors are especially good for trolling. Next up are the in-line three-cylinder 75- and 95-hp

motors, followed by the four-cylinder 100- and 115-hp motors.

The 135 through 200 models, including the XR6 and XR1, are built on narrow 60 degree V6 blocks and have features such as optional gear ratios, large alternators, EFI (on some models) and many others.

The other Mercury/Mariner V6s, the 275/200 Offshore, have the same features as the other V6s, but also have the option of counter rotation.

JOHNSON/EVINRUDE: These manufacturers offer portables from 2 to 8 hp, and compact twins from 9.9 to 30 hp.

Both have two and three cylinder models from 40 to 70 hp in the mid-range size, including the specialized 70 Backtroller. Their V4 models have units for 90 to 140





Ranger Fish 'n' Ski 372 Apache

hp, including an 85 Backtroller.

The next step up: two V6 158 cu. in. motors in four models, which yield 150 and 175 hp. Two V6 183 cu. in. motors

producing 200 and 225 hp are built for the ocean. The big guns are V8s with either 250 or 300 hp that have the availability of counter rotation to double your pleasure.

Each has a new off-shore outboard this year. Johnson's is the OceanRunner V6 and Ervinrude's is the OceanPro V6, available in a carbureted 200- and 225-hp version. They have a new two-stage cooling system for better cooling. Select models are available with counter rotation or power steering.

HONDA MARINE: The '92 models look unchanged for '93, but why mess with a good thing? Honda does intend to soon produce three four-stroke outboards in the 100 hp range based on the EFI 60 degree V4 prototype they unveiled in 1992.

Honda offers a full line of four-stroke outboards including 2, 5, 8, 9, 9.9, 15, 35, and 45 hp sizes. Models are available in both long and short shaft length, with electric start, tiller handle or remote control. Power tilt/trim is available on some models of the 35 and 45.

Rigging Your Fishing Boat

As fishing boat accessories get more complex and offer to do more for fishermen, rigging a craft doesn't have to be



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The King Of Caps



Lund WC16 models. Below: Crestliner Nighthawk 16

about \$180 has their largest diameter reel, and choice of rods up to 4 feet long.

A list of good downriggers would also include Penn, Walker and Willie.

Rod Holders

TEMPRESS: Fish On rod holders have a spinning model and casting reel model for you at a cost of about \$20 each. They

can be purchased with either a flush mount or rail mount, and extra mounts are readily available. These holders can be adjusted to any angle and can be quickly released from their mounts.

Rod holders made by Downeaster and Tite-Lok are also good choices.

ANCHORS AND ROPES: There are many fishing situations where having

two anchors is the most effective tactic. The main bow anchor should be a Danforth or navy anchor; use a mushroom or river anchor astern.

Buy easily handled 1/2-inch thick anchor rope measuring two to three times as long as the maximum expected anchoring depth.

Plastic-coated anchor chains and clevises will prevent rope chaffing and help set the anchor in the bottom. Store each connected set in a milk crate with the coiled rope first, the chain, then the anchor.

Remember, form follows function. Keep it simple, neat and clean; own specialized equipment that can be installed when needed or removed in seconds.

A properly rigged boat becomes an extension of the angler himself. Fishing from such a machine is one of life's pleasures. Go ahead, indulge yourself.

* Prices as shown in 1992 Bass Pro Shops master catalog.

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