

NEW ENGLAND'S FISHING MACHINES

Go local for a boat that can handle New England seas and satisfy the most frugal Yankee. By Tom Keer

Sitting around the house grouching about politics or the national economy will only succeed in wasting your time and raising your blood pressure. There are only two ways to remedy the situation: run for political office or get out on the water. Nothing erases a bad mood faster than a day on the water. Whether it's headbusting past a break wall at a trot, finding a school of bass or clamming with my wife and kids, I have more fun and complain less when I'm on the water.

photo by Billy Black



photo by Andy Nabreski



photo by Andy Nabreski



are in a similar position, take a break from the dismal news and buy a New England-made boat. The benefits are numerous. Buying a locally-made boat will keep New Englanders employed. It'll help the regional as well as national economy. These boats are made to satisfy us Frugal Yankees, they are efficient, so you'll save money at the pump.

There are several manufacturers from Rhode Island to Maine that offer a wide range of quality-made boats at affordable prices. These manufacturers offer custom boats as well, so you can be sure that your boat will suit your every whim and fancy. A new boat requires significant research, but New England boat companies are a great place to start. You'll find that these boats have several positive attributes in common.

"Made in New England" means guaranteed Yankee ingenuity from committed boat owners that are constantly looking for ways to build better boats. Expect quality designs from some of the best names in the business, great quality, rugged construction and affordable prices. Perhaps best of all, locally made boats are designed to handle the wide-range of Northeast conditions, including the rough seas you've all become familiar with.

Options will range from dories to center consoles and from sloops to day cruisers. A boat will take your mind off the chaotic state of affairs, and get you a little relaxation in the process. Your family and fishing buddies will love you for it.

EASTERN BOATS

P.O. Box 1040 • 11 Industrial Way
New Hampshire 03851
(603) 52-9213 • www.easternboats.com

Founded in 1981, Eastern Boats offers a wide range of New England hull designs that are custom built. The first boat, the 18-foot "Norton", was an original Norton hull. Eastern bought the 19 and 23 molds from Eastern Boats in 1988 when Seaway went out of business. Other hull designs are based on the legendary Downeast boatbuilder/designer Royal Lowell. Lowell's words on boat building can be seen in every hull: "I feel that a boat's beauty and performance are inseparable."

Today, the company is a family-run business. Owner Bob Bourdeau, his son Jake



and daughter Ashlee oversee production of 14 models that range from 18 to 35 feet in length. The traditional shallow-draft Downeast hull designs that all models share means that Eastern boats achieve excellent performance with lower horsepower engines. They feature an increased freeboard, all-composite construction, molded inner liner, rounded chine and full keel producing a careful blend of traditional design and modern technology.

"We have three shops that move our boats along the process: a laminate, an assembly and a rigging/final detail shop" says Bourdeau. "We invite our customers to tour our plant and we walk them through each part of the building process. They all like the classic New England styles."

So do those in more temperate climates. One boat order was for use in Puerto Rico by the Department of Fisheries as a research vessel. Another was for a private customer living in Singapore. "We treat customers fairly and build a quality product at an affordable price," said Bourdeau. "We love it when our customers come by."

MARITIME SKIFF

681 Riverside Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 620-7999
www.maritimeboats.com



Maritime Skiff was the brainchild of Paul Hureau and his wife Bev Brown. Hureau was a senior boat designer for Boston Whaler when the Legend was made in Rockland, Massachusetts. After Whaler moved to Florida, Hureau launched his own company, Maritime Skiff. These simple, low-horsepower, fuel-efficient boats are still made in New England, just a bit farther north in Augusta, Maine.

Boaters are well acquainted with Ken Priest, the originator of Kenway Boats, which was founded in 1947. As Priest grew his boat-building company, he formed Maritime Marine. And as Hureau and Brown looked to retire, the Priest family was looking to acquire.

Maritime Skiffs are shallow-draft boats that feature a foam-filled, fiberglass H-Gridbox system. The grid adds stiffness to the hull that reduces the pounding associated with rough conditions and allows for a firm footing for consoles, leaning

TIPPING THE SCALES CAN BE A GOOD THING!

Since 1958, Star Rods have given fishermen a high quality, hand-crafted rod at an affordable price. Manufactured in small production runs one at a time, Star Rods builds custom-style rods with maximum value.

Rod blanks are made to Star Rods' unique and demanding specifications, gained from a lifetime of rod building and fishing experience, using the company's own custom mandrels. Star Rods uses only the best components available - including Fuji, AFTCO and Stuart - and are engineered for the perfect strength, action and durability.

Star Rods are known as the rods that break the IGFA records — tough, high quality, durable rods designed for the discriminating fisherman. They're sold through knowledgeable, experienced dealers who can offer expert advice on local fishing conditions to help you select the perfect rod for your needs. Try one today, and be prepared to tip the scales and land your world record.



Visit your local authorized Star dealer today.

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Milford, CT 06460
203-876-1495

Wild Bill's Action Sport & Tackle
93 Marsh Road
Noank, CT 06340
860-536-6648

River's End Tackle
440 Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-388-2283
riversendtackle.com

The Fish Connection
127 Route 12
Preston, CT 06360
860-885-1739

Hillyer's Tackle Shop
374 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385
860-443-7615

Massachusetts

Red Top Sporting Goods
265 Main Street
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
508-759-3371
redtop tackle.com

Falmouth Bait & Tackle
258 Rear Teaticket Hwy (Rt. 28)
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-457-0900

Massachusetts (cont.)

Larry's Tackle Shop
258 Upper Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-5088

The Fin & Feather Shop
103 Main Street
Essex, MA 01929
978-768-3245
thefinandfeathershop.com

Eastman's Sport & Tackle
783 Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-548-6900

The Hook-up
85 Route 6A (Lowell Square)
Orleans, MA 02653
508-240-0778
thehookupcapecode.com

Monahan's Marine
396 Washington St. (Rt. 53)
Weymouth, MA 02188
781-335-2746
monahansmarine.com

Rhode Island

Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle
4019 Quaker Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-294-9642

Snug Harbor Marina
410 Gooseberry Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

posts and casting platforms. As the skiffs don't have a liner, their overall weight is reduced and they can be powered by lower-horsepower outboards. Maritimes offer all the sea-keeping features of offshore boats, and their lift strakes, wide chines and variable deadrise bottoms make them run flat. Their characteristic rounded bows and curved transoms help as well.

The Priests maintain the original 16-, 18-, and 20-foot skiffs and have added five 23-foot models and two 25-foot boats.

NORTHCOAST BOATS

75 Ballou Blvd.
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
888-802-2132
www.northcoastboats.com



Bristol, Rhode Island's NorthCoast Boats is a family-run business owned by Joe DaPonte. DaPonte has been building boats since the 1970s. Recently, he has outgrown his original digs and opened a new, state-of-the-art facility in Bristol. NorthCoast is a subsidiary of CC Marine, which is also part of CC Fiberglass Components.

Most boaters will recognize the hulls of NorthCoast boats because they're built on Dick Lema and Bill Richard's time-tested designs. The high sides and flares in the modified-V hulls give NorthCoast boats a characteristic aggressive look. If you are a fan of deep-V hulls you'll like the deep-V version NorthCoast offers. The composite grid system is filled with foam, liners are standard, and boat lengths vary from 18 to 28 feet. The two-tone, nonskid sole reduces glare, and it's good looking too.

Custom work can be done on your NorthCoast boat. The most common custom request these days is a tuna door.

SAMOSET BOATWORKS

106 Industrial Park Drive
Boothbay, Maine 04537
(207) 633-8350
www.samosetboatworks.com



Matthew Sledge's Samoset Boatworks in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, was founded in 2005. "I was fortunate to grow up in Marblehead, Massachusetts, where I spent my entire life working on boats," says Sledge. "When you're working for a large company that produces numerous boats per week, the profit and loss statement often dictates how the boats are made. I founded Samoset Boatworks to focus on craftsmanship so that I can deliver a boat that makes my customers say 'wow.'"

Sledge's company offers two models, the Samoset 30 which is described as a "Gentleman's Day Boat" and the Boothbay 21, which is a sloop. Doug Zern designed the hull based on Sledge's requirements for the Samoset while the Boothbay 21 comes from Gerald Hendle's legendary design from the 1920s. Whether you're looking for a fun family day on the water or you're a sailor looking for some wind, you'll be able to do both in style.

Sledge's hulls require a cold-molded process. The wood hull is covered with fiberglass and epoxy, one layer at a time. Vacuum bagging removes the air in-between layers, and produces the seaworthiness that comes with a stiffer hull.

"We really focus on building boats for customers who have their own design in mind," says Sledge. "Owners typically commission a designer to create a plan, and I'll build the craft to perform exactly the way they want to. We build them the way our customers want, one boat at a time."

STUR-DEE BOAT COMPANY

1117 Bulgarmarsh Road
Route 177
Tiverton, RI 02878
(401) 624-9373
www.stur-deeboat.com



Stur-Dee Boat Company is one of the more recognizable boat brands in the North-

"Our boats are built like our company name suggests," Reid said. "They We offer four styles. One style is the Amesbury Dory, with a high freeboard sheerlines. They're available in 12-, 14-, and 16-foot lengths. Our Cat is inches and has an enormous cockpit and cuddy cabin for tradition and i with a Marconi rig for agility. We also make a tender and a 10-foot rowing of our boats feature a high-quality gel coat hull with hand-laid fiberglass simple, and every part of the construction, including the millwork and f done in Tiverton."

All Stur-Dee boats have foam for floatation in the liners, and the cu work is done in by daughter Mackenzie. "She uses mahogany and teak fo breast rails and flooring; and oak for the rails," says Reid. "She's a perfect her work is impeccable. Her grandfather would be proud."

BLUE FIN SPORT FISHING BOATS

366 Menauhant Road
East Falmouth, MA 02536
(508) 540-0877
www.bluefinboats.com



Located on Cape Cod, Blue Fin Sport Fishing Boats has been building quality boats since 1974. However, the I today has been designed by Harry Turner, avid fisherman and National Off-Shore Racing champion.

"All models have a Multiple Planing-Surface Fast Step, which is a rais of the hull under the waterline at the rear of the boat that allows for fast higher top speeds, better fuel efficiency, extended range and a drier ride," s "It also offers an added benefit welcomed by the offshore fisherman; an stable platform while fishing in open water."

Beyond performance, Blue Fin Boats are designed with New England mind. "Anyone that has fished off Martha's Vineyard or Block Island w that a smooth morning ride to your favorite fishing spot will usually chang by the time you head home," says Turner. "Many boats will get you home, Fin will get you there safely, quickly and comfortably."

Whether it's a simple skiff, an easy to maintain center console, a boat fo ily or an elaborate offshore fishing machine, Blue Fin involves the custom building process to create a semi-custom boat tailored to individual needs

"We have always known we have a quality product that's built to exceed that other boatbuilders would see as overkill, yet delivered to the consum sonable price," says Jack Tompkins, General Manager of Blue Fin. "Each constructed with 11 to 13 layers of high-quality material, overlapped at all result in 20-plus layers at all stress points. Large strakes are filled solid wi deck compound for added strength, and all Blue Fin stringers and transom structed using high density, composite foam, further increasing the life of

GBOATS

86 Newburyport Turnpike
Newbury, MA 01922
(978) 764-4016
www.gboats.com



Newburyport's Gboats is a joint venture between Joe Berkman and Bob Blair. The two-man company produces simp boats with ample open space. Berkman has spent his entire life in the bo business, first with Mark Lindsay in Gloucester and later at Boston Boatwor Boston. Blair is a career merchant mariner and has been a ship pilot for 25

"Joe and I look to add value to our boats without cheapening the proce said. "Our electronics box is a perfect example. The hinged panel uses a hyd when you put your key in the ignition the box powers up for use. When underway, depth finders, chartplotters, and radios are stored safely and pro

Boaters remark on the classic designs created for Gboats by Doug Gloucester 20-foot, modified-V is 100% laid fiberglass, has an 8-foot beam 14 inches of water. "She weighs about 2,800 pounds," Blair said, "and cru