

► Paul Mann Custom Boats



Like so many of his boat-building brethren, Paul Mann made his way in the world as a mate and captain fishing the rough seas out of Oregon Inlet, North Carolina. So he knows what goes into making a good fishing boat.

"I design my own bottoms and

understand what differences are needed to accommodate each owner's individual fishing style," Mann says. "A client who wants to fish eight hours a day in rough seas but doesn't want the boat to roll dramatically requires a boat with less deadrise aft, so it's stable. Conversely, running hard and long

Paul Mann (below) builds true Carolina-style fishing boats with wide beams and rich woodwork throughout.

in rough water needs a different bottom with more deadrise and convexity for a smoother ride, but it will roll more in a beam sea. Either way, every Paul Mann boat runs perfectly in a following sea with virtually no yaw and very little lag on the back of a big wave. All my running surfaces have some degree of convexity for a better ride and less drag. I design boats that most closely meet an owner's requirements without going too far in either direction, so they're happy with the all-around performance.

"I also like to keep the client regularly informed about where the project stands budget-wise to avoid any and all surprises. Ultimately, my goal is to give my client a high-quality boat that does everything required, comes in on budget and on time," he says.

Just because Mann comes from an old-school line of builders doesn't mean he's not quick to take advantage of the modern methods and techniques that will make his boats better. "Today, everyone wants to go faster and spend less," he says. "With the price of fuel, you have to use advanced composites in your boat to make it lighter. As for the electronic and electrical gadgetry, I find that most times, it's the owners who push that envelope further. I would prefer to go toward more conservative operating systems. With simple and functional systems, you rarely have issues."

Mann enjoys great repeat business because he knows that the relationship doesn't end with the sale. "Customer service is as important as building the boat," Mann says. "When someone buys a Paul Mann boat, the service comes with it. Our boats often travel far from the Eastern Seaboard and out of the country. Service must follow that. We'll fly our craftsmen anywhere the work needs to be done. I am always available to my owners and captains via email or phone."

— Dean Travis Clarke



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