

Types of Fishing Boats

By Eric Morris

Boats have long been on the scene for practical purposes of fishing and water transportation. However, they have managed to become status symbols over a period of time.

"Fishing boats" is a very general term used to refer to any water vehicle that can be employed to assist in catching fish. Usually, the term applies to commercial haulers that reel in, store and transport huge quantities of fish to be sold to consumers in fish market. These boats are about 5-10 ton gigantic machines that are capable of carrying a nation's food supply in their holds. They are, however, features of developed nations such as Japan, since the developing coastal regions still largely depend up on communities of anglers who sail into the sea on wooden crafts and bring in small quantities of fish individually. These fishing boats are classified on their design and the kind of waters into which they are equipped to venture. The basic types are inland fishing boats and sea fishing boats. Since fishing has been a traditional mode of existence in most coastal communities, each has come up with designs that are best suited to their styles of fishing and their understanding of the sea and its behavior. For example, among natives of the Amazon River Basin, the favored fishing vessel is a light, wickerwork, single-person boat that makes spearing fish in the shallow waters fairly easy. On the other hand, backwater dwellers of Kerela in India prefer a dugout log to use as a canoe for brackish water fishing.

In developed communities like that of the United States, fishing is not a means to ensure survival, but a recreation activity. People view fishing as a sport, and thus the boats they use are designed to fit this profile. Fishing boats meant for two to six riders, moving at high speeds are more popular here. Such models include Bass Boats, Pontoons, and Runabouts, which are suitable for entertainment as well as for carrying fishing equipment. For weekend family fishing expeditions, individuals prefer inflatable rafts and canoes.