

Seaside Marine Surveyors

What is Marine Survey?

There are several types of surveys available. Pre-Purchase Surveys are for the person buying a used boat and wants to find out as much about the condition of the vessel as possible. Another popular survey is the Condition and Valuation Survey or the Insurance Survey. This type of survey does not approach the scope of a Pre-Purchase Survey, but will address the overall condition of the vessel along with safety and compliance issues of the vessel.

Before you purchase the vessel of your dreams, have a thorough inspection performed by a competent surveyor. The inspection can uncover items that may lead to costly repairs or issues that can compromise the safety of the vessel and its passengers. Some of the items typically covered during a survey are:

Electrical system

Plumbing system

Fuel system

Sanitation system

Underwater gear

Engine components

Hull, stringer, and bulkheads

Safety Gear

Assess the vessel for compliance with USCG CFR, ABYC, and NFPA recommendations

Conduct a sea trial to evaluate performance

Give a fair market value or appraisal

Why hire a surveyor? A professional surveyor will provide objective opinions through experienced eyes. Buying a boat is emotional. People tend to fall in love with the prospect of a new car, house, a boat is no different. Love may be blind, but a surveyor is working for you eyes wide open. Most banks and insurance underwriters require a survey on vessels over two years old. They will want to know her condition and fair market value in order to insure or finance her. The most important reason to survey your vessel however is for the safety of her passengers and crew.

CHOOSING A MARINE SURVEYOR:

Anyone can start a business and title him or herself a Marine Surveyor. Certain organizations, such as the *U.S. Surveyors Association* require members to meet strict professional, technical, and ethical standards. Surveyors should provide you with a professionally prepared report that can be accepted by your bank and/or insurance company. Talk with prospective surveyors and ask questions! How long will the survey take? What does the survey include, and what type of reporting format is used? Do they use ABYC, NFPA and USCG standards in their surveys? How much will the inspection cost? A thorough inspection will not be rushed and will depend on the type of survey required based on size, equipment and on board systems. There may be additional services available such as haul out, engine surveys, oil analysis, galvanic and stray current corrosion testing, moisture testing, ultrasonic testing, as well as other non-destructive tests. There may be additional charges for these and other services. Remember that a well conducted survey can provide important information about the condition of the vessel, but they are not guarantees. The surveyor reports the condition in accessible areas only as it existed at the time of the inspection.