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Recent Catamaran question...

Bayacht

After reading Eric Smith's "good cat bad cat" (which I respect) I would appreciate if you would tell me what metric bridge clearance is acceptable to satisfy the elimination of underdeck slamming. –B.K.

White paper: <http://www.bayacht.com/goodbad.htm>

Bruce, Thanks for your note.

The bridge deck clearance issue is not a stand alone issue. If you look through the re-entry hatch (under the boat) while the boat is at speed, in waves, you will see that there are two inner bow waves that converge about ½ way back at maximum height about middle, half to 2/3 back. Certain humps and bumps coming out from the side to accommodate interior spaces, often don't interfere if properly designed and placed. That's why in the article, I showed the graphic of the total volume of water passing through, between the hulls (like water going through a pipe) needs to be unrestricted and have enough volume to accommodate the flow. It's more than just the height dimension. It will never be perfect, but some designs just focus more on design parameters like this, rather than just the interior accommodations. (Load carrying—also discussed, is probably even a bigger issue, though the two issues go hand in hand. If the boat is easily overloaded, this will compress the total volume between the hulls and exacerbate the situation!)

Of course, on top of this is the normal seas affects—waves at odd angles. These are somewhat knocked down by the hulls, but contribute to the considerations. Yacht design is as much art (and experience) as strict design/engineering considerations.

While you can never generalize, experienced companies that get all of the parameters right, like Fountaine Pajot—the world's most successful builder—generally get it right. By comparison, for whatever reason, we've seen a preponderance of South African designs, over the years, get it wrong. They display an obvious pinched down "pipe". Interviews with Skippers bear this out. They report excessive banging and slapping—but you don't have to take their word for it—just look under the boats!

See Fountaine Pajot's historic success: <http://www.bayacht.com/aaa/fp/1-LeadingCompany--models.pdf>

See a video of the company's commitment to quality at the link above.

See all of the Fountaine Pajot models: www.bayacht.com/fpvisit.htm

If you are thinking of a new or used catamaran soon, why not get in touch with one of our associates? Call 410-263-2311 and ask for Chris Bent, Bobby Allen, or Rudy Vereen.

See our profiles: <http://www.bayacht.com/aaa/Corporate-LGC/CorporateIndex.htm>

Let us know if we can help... For more: White paper: <http://www.bayacht.com/goodbad.htm>

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