



NEWS RELEASE September 2006

BLUEFINN 40 – On Trials

FAST POTTING AND ANGLING IN ALUMINIUM

After going on display at the Killybegs show, the first Bluefinn 40 built by Mooney Boats has now successfully completed sea trials.

The aluminium hull was designed to optimise performance for offshore use and the structure exceeds Lloyds Special Service Craft standard with extra plate thicknesses used for the bottom plates to allow drying out and also 8mm deck plates to better survive heavy use in commercial potting, support duties or survey work. All hull material is marine grade aluminium, the hull is anode protected and great care has been taken during the build to ensure minimal use of dissimilar metals throughout the vessel and where essential they are closely controlled, all to ensure a long life under continued hard use.

The demonstration model has been exceptionally well fitted out, the accommodation being fully insulated and finished with oak veneer panels and solid oak trim. The galley area aft of the two bunks is solid and functional with sink, gas burner and microwave oven. The wheelhouse is also fully insulated, lined in an easy clean vinyl and again trimmed in solid oak. For crew comfort an adjustable suspension helm's chair sits to starboard facing a full navigation package and stereo all flush mounted in the dashboard. Tucked away in the corner is a Matervolt 2500W modified sine wave inverter capable of running sensitive computer equipment or power tools along with the ships load.

The engineroom has been fitted neatly with economical use of space leaving ample room for owners to add their preferred equipment such as generator or additional

hydraulics. The C9 sits in the middle with all round access making maintenance easy and comfortable.

The hold/store is currently a blank canvas with just a solid wood floor and a vast space, 10.8 cubic meters, ready for tailoring to any individual needs.

After an inclining test carried out by designers McCaig Watson, part of Marine Design International, confirmed her excellent stability characteristics and engine commissioning completed by McCormick Macnaughton she was taken on initial sea trials on 12th September. After slowly bringing her up to temperature she was put through her paces for speed and handling outside Killybegs harbour. In the flat conditions she topped 22knots with full tanks. She was then thrown in and out of full lock turns with complete confidence, remaining smooth and comfortable and holding speeds above 17knots through tight u-turns. The conditions were pleasant and performance reassuring, a few sunny photo's were taken from the accompanying Fastmac 6 another performance workboat designed and built by the same team, but this was not what the Bluefinn was designed or built for.

Overnight the wind had come up to the forecast 25mph from the South and brought a few white tops to the bay, so on the 13th she was taken out again and the same manoeuvres performed in a 5ft choppy sea. Again 22knots was reached which the fine bow entry cutting through the majority of the chop and the high flared bow throwing off the larger breaking waves. The deep-V hull ensures a smooth ride and her seakeeping was unparalleled with never a moments hesitation no matter how hard she was pushed, the hydraulic power assisted steering giving feedback and precise control. This was hinting at the conditions she was created for but we wait patiently for more challenging conditions to see just what this sturdy performance workhorse is capable of.

During trials the electronic C9 engine was continually feeding performance figures to the laptop allowing full analysis of engine efficiency which was then logged against speed so that specific boat efficiency graphs could be produced. In today's climate this information is of great importance to any business considering investing in a new vessel and is available, along with full specifications, from Mooney Boats or McCaig Watson.

This model is certified for 12 passengers and for commercial potting in Ireland and will pass all safety requirements for working at home or abroad. (DCMNR P5, MCA Cat1 Offshore)

The Blufinn 40 is now available for demonstration to interested parties for this vessel or one of the other Blufinn arrangements, twin engine and angling deckhouse. With winter approaching there is better chance the Atlantic coast will supply the conditions needed to test a vessel of this pedigree.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

All partners involved in the Bluefinn40 development are eager to prove the quality of this product, which can only be done by seeing it in the flesh and going for a spin. The Bluefinn 40 is available for journalists to come aboard and put through it's paces in Killybegs. Full technical specification in PDF format, high quality graphics and photographs are available in any format to suit and from Simon Cormack above.

Note: McCaig Watson is a trading name of Marine Design International Ltd