

## Garlington 44

**M**ost custom boats are built at the specific request of a customer, and to a great extent, the buyer's needs and tastes dictate the character of the finished product.

By contrast, the new Garlington 44 was designed by the builder for his personal use, and as a result, it embodies all the virtues he considers important in an offshore boat.

Although a relative newcomer in the custom fishing boat field, Garlington Marine has enjoyed steady growth and prosperity during its six-year history. The sleek, clean lines of Garlington sportfishermen are easily recognized, but there's more to these boats than good looks. Now that Garlintons have been in service for

several years, the company has earned a reputation for building boats that are not only stylish, but also sturdy and dependable.

When it came time for custom boat builder Richard Garlington to sit down and design a boat for himself, he had a pretty good idea what he wanted: a well-built, low-maintenance "express" configuration with lots of wide-open cockpit and deck space for Florida-style sailfishing, coupled with a forward cabin boasting all

the amenities necessary for comfortable overnighting. In other words: "The ultimate day boat."

His original plans called for a 42-foot boat, which then evolved into a 44-footer and began to take shape. At some point in the construction process, the word

on the new 44 got out, and long before Garlington finished his "personal" boat, there were buyers asking for it — and for the next three hulls.

### BUILDING A DREAMBOAT

Like many of the custom builders in the Stuart, Florida, area, Garlington began his career building triple-planked wood-laminate hulls. And while the company will still build wood-laminate hulls upon request, it has firmly embraced core materials technology,

and is now doing some of the best foam-cored fiberglass work in the industry.

Garlington uses airex coring in the hull because it is said to have superior impact resistance. In the marine industry, there is a test used to determine hull material strength. The largest unsupported panel in the hull is tested for flex, impact resistance, and strength, and there is an equation used to express the sum of these figures as a safety factor ratio.



PHOTOS BY DARRRELL JONES

A three-to-one ratio is considered excellent within the industry, and very few builders have achieved strengths of four-to-one or greater. An independent lab test rated the airex-core Garlington 44 hull at six-to-one, making it one of the toughest fishing boat hulls on the water.

But while airex is the material of