



Swift little mover

Boats with a proven on-water record are always popular with dingy anglers, and the gullwinged Sea-Swift 500 is the perfect example of a craft that has evolved to become a stunningly fast and reasonably priced boat



"You can have a boat with a removable cuddy, which would be handy for summer drift fishing"

She looked familiar. I am sure I had seen her before. I was in Teignmouth, South Devon, to test the Sea-Swift 500, and getting closer to her I realised I had seen her in a former life, when she was built in Swansea and known as the John Dory.

The JD was a hugely popular boat on the Welsh dinghy angling scene, especially with those who needed

a fair turn of speed to reach distant marks. She was a particular hit with local bass anglers, as aside from her speed she offered a stable angling platform for drift fishing, often in the choppy, confused tide rips where the bass love to hunt.

The moulds for the original John Dory were bought by Dave Swift, a Devon boat angler. Following several subtle modifications and improvements the boat was reborn

as the Sea-Swift 500 and, as you are about to find out, the boat is ready to enjoy a new lease of life.

Built on the popular and stable combination of a deep-V and gullwing hull, the Sea-Swift 500 has an overall length of 4.9m, a 1.9m beam, and displaces 420kg.

She is rated for use with outboard engines up to a maximum of 60hp, and while she is CE rated Category C for carrying up to 420kg

or four persons, I would suggest that as far as serious offshore angling goes this is a two or three-angler boat.

Overall build quality and finish is very high, and the standard 500 I tested featured the popular and highly practical open cuddy design. If you ask you can have a boat with a removable cuddy, which would be handy for summer drift fishing.

Access to the short bow and

sizeable anchor locker is through a side-opening fore hatch. The cuddy offers plenty of headroom, along with sufficient seating that incorporates useful dry locker stowage space.

The steering console is to starboard and is spacious enough to install all the essential electronic angling toys you are likely to need.

The helmsman's and crewman's padded swivelling seats are

mounted on GRP boxes that incorporate extra stowage space.

Fantastic fishing space

Deck space within the cockpit is substantial, 54.5 sq ft to be precise, which is exactly what you need aboard an angling boat.

Inboard freeboard is excellent, and I was pleased to note that the gunnels fall vertically to the deck,



Tester Dave Lewis says:

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the Sea-Swift 500 to anyone looking for an easily towable high-speed angling craft which really does have the potential to fish far distant marks in both safety and comfort.

Key features



The Sea-Swift 500 has a short bow design



The transom holds a main and auxiliary engine



There is plenty of room under the open cuddy



Plenty of space to store a standard fuel tank



The helm seat and console are to starboard



The console is big enough for essential gadgets



A front hatch gives access to the bow

Testing times

The Sea-Swift 500 is put through some tight turns in the waters of Lyme Bay.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

SEA-SWIFT 500

Design:	Gull wing
Hull:	Deep-V
Colour:	White
Length:	4.9 metres
Beam:	1.9 metres
Displacement:	420kg
Guarantee:	Five-year warranty
CE Category:	C
Package price:	£9,495

allowing an angler to brace himself comfortably and safely against them while fishing.

This design, along with a non-slip deck, is the ideal set-up for standing at the gunnel while the boat drifts over the fish.

The transom design is both typical and perfect for boats of this style, allowing comfortable, safe access into both quarters.

There is plenty of space to stow standard five-gallon fuel tanks plus a battery, and of course a decent sized sump to collect any water that is shipped.

The transom is large enough for the installation of a single engine, and a high-grade auxiliary engine bracket is fitted as standard.

Buoyancy is provided by sealed voids at strategic points within the hull mouldings, with what is described as a 'heavy lay-up' construction providing rigidity and strength.

Standard fixtures and fittings include an Ultraflex steering

system, rubber gunnel fendering, a fire extinguisher, an 85 Amp/Hr battery and box and all necessary deck hardware.

The Sea-Swift 500 package comes with a full manufacturers' five-year warranty.

Test time in the Teign

Within the enclosed waters of the River Teign we were restricted to running at displacement speed, but once we cleared The Ness and the buoyed channel leading out into Lyme Bay we could open the throttle and really see what the Sea-Swift 500 could do.

The test boat was fitted with a 50hp Suzuki outboard that, given the fact at calm sea conditions we encountered, provided a top speed in the region of 30 knots.

The ride was exhilarating, and both Dave Swift and I were wishing we had brought our fishing tackle along - conditions were perfect.

I ran the boat through all the

Smart look
Here the deep-V and gullwing are easily seen.



usual high-speed manoeuvres, including some especially tight turns to both port and starboard, which is an excellent way of gauging a boat's lateral stability.

As I had already suspected, she passed each test with flying colours. We could have done with more challenging conditions, but

given my previous 'affair' with the JD, and her gull wing design, I knew this boat was a winner.

I would be surprised if it couldn't offer a super smooth, slam-free ride at perfectly acceptable cruising speeds somewhere in the 'high-teens' through choppy waters. **SA**

Power source

The test boat had a 50hp Suzuki engine.



Information

The boat, engine and trailer package as tested retails for £9,495. A package including a 30hp Tohatsu engine is available for £7,895.

Contact Dave Swift, Sea-Swift, 49 Newcross Rd, Kingsteignton, Devon TQ12 3TH, tel: 01626 335904 or 07966 965795.

Web: www.seaswift.co.uk

TOP TIP

ALWAYS CHECK THE DEALER'S AVAILABLE PACKAGE OPTIONS

