

Simmons Sea-Skiff ^[1]

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Simmons Sea-Skiff

by Gene Purcell, 2006



Simmons Sea Skiff, ca. 1950s. Image courtesy of Simmons Sea-Skiff.

^[2]From 1950 through the 1960s, [T. N. Simmons](#) ^[3] and his son built hundreds of small boats on the North Carolina coast that many regarded as the best sportfishing and recreational power boats available. Never manufactured on a large scale, the vessels were simply purchased shortly after Simmons finished them. He initially used juniper in their construction, though he later switched to mahogany for the frames and 3/8-inch marine plywood for planking. Most models had an outboard motor as well. Although large motors became available and were used on the boat, Simmons insisted that an 18-horsepower engine was the correct size for his unusual skiff.

Simmons sea-skiffs, both beautiful and seaworthy, are regarded as classics by their owners. In the early 2000s the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) ^[4] maintained three of these boats for use in putting down survey stakes and similar duties; other owners and builders included residents of several foreign countries in addition to those of southeastern North Carolina.

References:

David Carnell, "Mister Simmons' Wonderful Boat," *Wildlife in North Carolina* (June 1987).

Bob Simpson and Mary Simpson, "In Search of the Simmons Sea Skiff," *Small Boat Journal* (November 1986).

Additional Resources:

Simmons Sea-Skiff: <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/SSS%20history/index.htm> ^[3]

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Simmons Sea Skiff, ca. 1950s. Image courtesy of Simmons Sea-Skiff <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/> ^[2].

Subjects:

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[Transportation](#) ^[7]

Authors:

[Purcell, Gene](#) ^[8]

Origin - location:

[Coastal Plain](#) ^[9]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)^[10]

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