

## Lobster Boat FOXY LADY

LOA 38', LWL 36', Beam 12', Draft 4' 3"

Original Displacement: 15,000 lbs

Owner: Stephen M.H. Connett

Designer: Spencer Lincoln

Built: 1986 by Covey Island Boatworks, Lunenburg NS

*Foxy Lady* was built for Merrill MacInnis of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia who fished the boat for 18 years. (Merrill's family also owned a fox farm, hence the name.) When asked about his boat, Merrill said, "I've been going to sea all my life, and I've been scared in some boats, but I was never scared in *Foxy Lady*."



*Foxy Lady* in Cape Breton

The strip planked construction is light and strong. The planks are western white cedar, 1 1/4" square, soaked in epoxy, edge nailed to each other with galvanized nails, and fasted to the frames with stainless steel screws. The outside of the hull is covered with fiberglass. The frames are laminated western white cedar covered with epoxy. The keel is laminated cedar, and the skeg under the rudder is oak. The house and decks are 3/4" plywood with fiberglass over. In good hands, wood is still a great material.

In 2004 I bought the *Foxy Lady* in Cape Breton and had her trucked to New England Boatworks in Portsmouth, RI for conversion to a lobster yacht. In the course of the refit the carpenters at NEB replaced several planks, part of the keel and the oak skeg. They also glued a 3/8" fiberglass shoe to the full length of the keel.

The carpenters extended the cabin six feet, installed a full galley, and built a V-berth and an enclosed head in the cuddy. As the boat progressed, I installed the systems, and my son-in-law and I painted the boat. *Foxy Lady* has a semi-commercial finish to keep the boat as simple as possible. There are no ceilings or head liners, and most of the wire runs are visible. There is no generator or air-conditioning. The windlass is an aging "two cylinder Armstrong."



The new *Foxy Lady*



New Interior

There are two 50 gallon water tanks under the washboard aft. Hot water is supplied by an on-demand propane heater mounted on the outside of the after cabin bulkhead in the cockpit. Two 40 pound aluminum propane tanks are secured below the heater. The shower is mounted underneath the cabin top on the starboard side of the cockpit. The gray water drains out through the scuppers. We live like sailors but stay drier at sea.

*Foxy Lady* is powered by a single 220HP John Deere 6068T diesel and cruises at 8-12 knots. There are two 60 gallon wood/epoxy fuel tanks that provide a range of 300 miles.

We christened *Foxy Lady* New Year's Day 2006, and two weeks later we were underway on a cold ten day trip to Stuart, Florida running outside when we could and inside when we had to. We finished some final work in Stuart and then ran straight to Spanish Wells.



Tagged green turtle before release

*Foxy Lady* operates eight months of the year in the Bahamas, cruising in most of the out-islands from the northern Abacos to Acklins. Barbara and I tag turtles for the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida and represent the Bahamas National Trust in the family island schools. Barbara also runs a very active Flat Stanley project with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

We tow a 19' Spanish Wells Marine outboard boat to use in our sea turtle research. The Marine boats are modeled after the Abaco skiffs and have been used for many years in the Spanish Wells crawfishing fleet. They are solid fiberglass. The inside deck is deep which gives more room and makes the boat more stable, but the boat is not self-bailing. Two submersible bilge pumps wired to separate batteries are fitted inside a well to keep the boat dry. The boats have reinforced stems with 1/2" eyes and two 1" ropes for towing.



19' Spanish Wells Marine Boat

Both boats have proven close to perfect for our operations in the Bahamas. Everybody loves lobster boats because they are handy, seaworthy, and stylish. The Spanish Wells Marine boats can safely range 40 miles or more in rough weather.