

2022 Boat & Motor Buyer's Guide

January 2022 | by Capt. John N. Raguso | [f](#) [t](#) [b](#)

It's been an interesting year since last season's Boat Buyers' Guide. After a year of being cooped up with draconian COVID restrictions, the entire free world decided that buying a boat was their best investment coming out of the pandemic.

According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) new powerboat sales increased by 24% from May 2020 to May 2021. That's both the good news and the bad news in one statement. Boat company sales are through the roof, with new orders requiring anywhere from 6 to 18 months to wait for your new ride. As Viking's President Pat Healy recently stated, "It's a great time to be in the boat business." No kidding, but that's the bad news too.

Since demand far outstrips supply right now, Keynesian Economics is in full bloom and prices are totally crazy; as such, there are few bargains to be had. Another dark cloud that we've been hearing ad nauseam is the "supply chain" issue that seems to impact just about everything in our lives, from food, to cars, to electronics and yes, to boats and outboards too. In spite of that, there are a fleet of new boats for 2022, so jump onboard the Buyers' Guide and let's go for a boat ride to see what's new.

GRADY-WHITE

Although there are no "new" boats for 2022, one of Grady-White's most proven models, the Fisherman 257 CC did get a makeover. This SeaV2 running bottom is one of the best offshore performers in its class. I spent two seasons running an earlier model Fisherman 257 and it did the job in the bays and inlets, near offshore waters and all the way out to the 100-fathom line. The new 2022 model year version of the Fisherman 257 brings with it additional upgrades, demonstrating one of Grady-White's core values that has contributed to its leadership and success over the decades, specifically listening to customers and making continuous improvements to keep them happy.



The Fisherman 257's T-top has been re-engineered. The painted aluminum frame, integrated into the scratch resistant windshield, now incorporates LED spreader lights and three tri-colored LED recessed lights (red, blue, white). The storage net (which is perfect to stow PFDs) remains, along with a four rod rocket launcher and a radar flat. Overhead handholds and handrails surrounding the scratch-resistant windshield make it easy to move around the boat. Add that to a wide-open 64-square foot cockpit and a large, roomy console and you've got a real winner.

The head features storage shelves, a hanging locker, dome lighting, with plenty of room to lock up rods and gear. From the integrated swim platform with ladder to the enhanced stereo sound system with Bluetooth, two forward console and two helm speakers, this boat is ready to rock whether you're fishing or playing at the beach. Other nice touches are the foldaway aft bench seat, a standard 32-gallon insulated raw water livewell port side aft, plus a handy 185-quart insulated fish box in the center of the transom. Add two more insulated fishboxes under the forward bench seats and you have enough capacity to ice your best day's catch. For more info, visit www.gradywhite.com.