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MAGAZINE

Exploring the Outer Reef

CLASSIC CRUISING, CONTEMPORARY COMFORT

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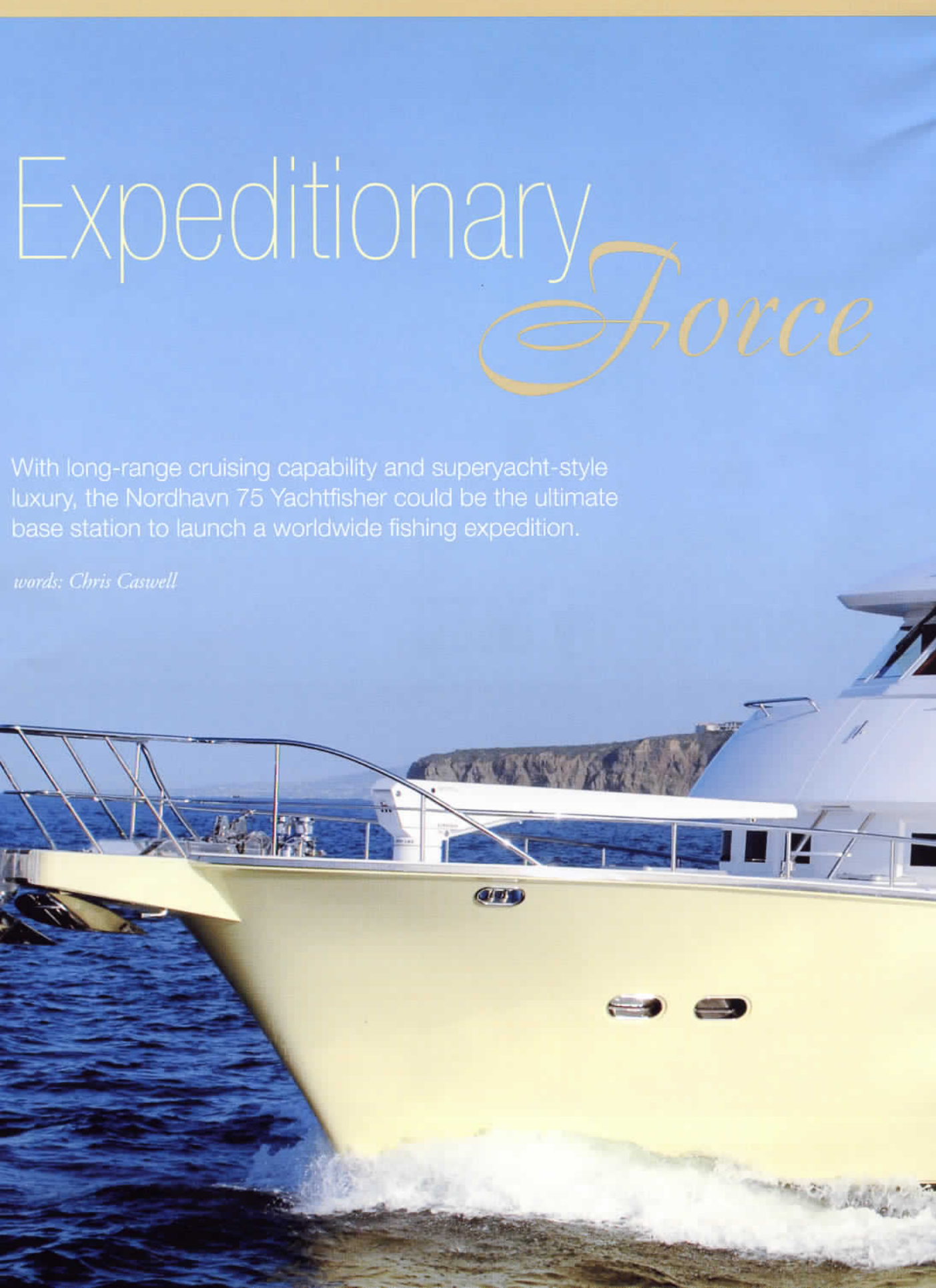
Expeditionary *Force*

With long-range cruising capability and superyacht-style luxury, the Nordhavn 75 Yachtfisher could be the ultimate base station to launch a worldwide fishing expedition.

words: Chris Caswell



The luxurious main saloon is one of many features distinguishing the Nordhavn 75 from conventional sportfishers.

Traditionally, a sportfishing yacht is designed for short voyages: a run out into bluewater in search of gamefish or occasionally venturing to nerarby islands. With the Nordhavn 75 Expedition Yachtfisher, this experienced builder of long-range cruising yachts has thrown that concept out the window.

This is a yacht built with the long legs needed to range across oceans in safety and comfort, yet one which is fully equipped to satisfy the most demanding angler.

In the world of serious ocean fishermen, there is the equivalent of a Mt. Everest or a Holy Grail. It is what they call the Billfish Grand Slam, and it is deceptively simple: all you have to do is catch one of each of the nine billfish species in the world. That means the Atlantic and Pacific blue marlin, Atlantic and Pacific sailfish, black marlin, striped marlin, white marlin, swordfish and spearfish. Sounds easy, right?

But fewer than five dozen anglers have ever accomplished this feat. It took most a lifetime, and rarely did they land all the catches from their own boat.

Enter the Nordhavn 75 Yachtfisher. With a 4,000 mile range at a comfortable cruising speed and a hull based on the well-proven Nordhavn full displacement concept for seaworthiness, fishermen now have the ultimate Grand Slam weapon in their arsenal.

Here's how Jeff Leishman, the designer and one of the Nordhavn principals, pictures such a quest taking place from the company's doorstep in the USA. "You could start in the Atlantic for blue and white marlin together with sailfish in St Thomas. Then cross Panama to the Pacific where you might find black marlin in January and February. After that, you could head up the coast of California for striped marlin and swordfish, and finish with a jaunt over to Hawaii for Pacific blue marlin and shortbill spearfish".

Of course, Australian anglers may do well to start their hunt for black marlin off the coast of Cairns, or perhaps swing by Vanuatu for blue marlin or detour to Samoa for the sailfish. With a Nordhavn 75, the world is your playing field.

Nordhavn has built a reputation for long-range luxury expedition yachts and they've applied all of that knowledge to the 75 Yachtfisher. Then they incorporated every detail that a serious fisherman dreams about: an enormous fishing cockpit, twin 225-litre baitwells, a 900-litre deep freezer, and enough gear and tackle storage for an expedition.

The result is a yacht that trades the traditional sportfisher traits of high-speed and high fuel consumption for efficiency, range and seaworthiness. And if you think that a sportfishing yacht means a Spartan interior (hose out the beer cans after a weekend with the guys), you've got another thing coming: this is pure luxury from the deep carpets and posh upholstery to the granite counters and spacious staterooms.

Unlike traditional sportfishing convertibles, you can also take all the amenities with you, from jet skis to dive gear, without worrying about the weight. The Nordhavn's full displacement 117-ton hull won't even notice.

The master stateroom is a teak-lined sanctuary located just three steps below the main saloon.

master stateroom is orderly yet relaxing.

mfy lounge and desk adorn the master stateroom.

"In another break with sportfishing tradition, the owner's cabin is no shoehorned cave but, rather, a teak-lined suite that spans the full beam just three steps from the saloon level."

Step aboard the transom platform and enter the cockpit through either of the doors designed to handle "granders"...fish over 450 kilograms (1000lbs). Once in the cockpit, try not to get lost. It's 6.7 metre wide, and the coamings are dotted with rod holders. Tackle and bait prep consoles line the forward area, with built-in bait tanks. Add a fighting chair (or two) of your choice, and you're ready for action.

Just up from the cockpit is the "California deck", a shaded alfresco lounge area that is the perfect place to wait for a strike or watch the fishing action. Twin settees on each side have tables, the encircling rail has more rod holders, and there is a complete outdoor kitchen with wetbar and grill, as well as an enclosed head to starboard. Inside the wide door is a saloon of such comfort and luxury that it seems more suited to a superyacht than a sportfisher. A dinette is to starboard and an L-shaped couch faces a pop-up wide-screen TV. Filling the forward corner is a fully equipped galley with a marble breakfast bar fitted with three permanent stools.

In another break with sportfishing tradition, the owner's cabin is no shoehorned cave but, rather, a teak-lined suite that spans the full beam just three steps from the saloon level. Entry is through a lounge area with a curved settee and past spacious hanging lockers to the centerline king-sized berth with built-in nightstands. More lockers and bureaus fill out the area, which also has an office/computer desk with swing-out seat. The head is elegant, from the curved granite counters to the tiled floor, and it has an oversized

The shaded California deck is a great spot to relax or watch the fishing action in the aft cockpit below.

shower with a seat and multiple nozzles to ease tired fishing muscles. At this point, the owner of a Nordhavn 75 Yachtfisher is going to have to make some decisions: how many friends does he want to come aboard? Two arrangements are offered with accommodation plans for either two or three guest cabins.

The standard layout with two guest cabins creates a large VIP stateroom on the lower deck with a queen-sized berth and an ensuite head to almost equal the master. Another cabin has a pair of single berths as well as a private head.

With three guest cabins, you keep the twin-bunked cabin and replace the VIP with two guest staterooms with double berths and private heads. Even with three cabins, no guest is going to feel like a second-class citizen, since each area has ample floor space as well as storage and light. In both layouts, a stacked washer/dryer is hidden off the passageway.

"With a 4,000 mile range at a comfortable cruising speed and a hull based on the well-proven Nordhavn full displacement concept for seaworthiness, fishermen now have the ultimate Grand Slam weapon in their arsenal."

Don't think you're done: this towering yacht has two more levels to explore! Next up from the saloon is the pilothouse deck, with stairs leading both from the California deck and from opposite the galley. The pilothouse is reminiscent of a small ship, with a thoughtfully arranged instrument panel facing a pair of Stidd helm chairs, and there is space to fit enough electronics to guide you around the world. The full-sized chart table is a seamanlike touch, with storage for cruising guides and a swing-out stool. In the opposite corner is a raised settee with table, allowing guests to join the skipper. Just abaft the pilothouse is a captain's cabin, with a single berth and private head with shower. Watertight doors on each side of the pilothouse lead to a Portuguese bridge with access to the foredeck.

Stairs from the pilothouse deck lead to the flybridge, which has another complete helm station offset to starboard. Placed well aft so the skipper can look directly down on the fishing cockpit, it features a forward facing settee and sun protection from a fiberglass hardtop.

A major change for Nordhavn came in the power department: the 75 Yachtfisher has twin engines. All other Nordhavns have had single e but, in this case, the second engine adds the maneuverability nee fight a fish. Two Detroit 60 diesels are rated for continuous use at 7 turning four-bladed 42-inch propellers. An unusual feature is th rudders are attached at both top and bottom with two molded skeg provide the ultimate protection for both rudders and props.

The engineroom and equipment areas take up the lower deck amidships to the stern, providing ample space for systems and s Electrical power comes from the standard Onan 40kW and 2 generators, and an Atlas 34kVA power system makes the Nor compatible worldwide.

As you might expect for a intended for expedition cru the standard equipment l comprehensive, and includes amenities as Trac stabilisers, a tank dive compressor, a 7,500 per-day watermaker, and bow and stern thrusters. Sin Nordhavn 75 carries two te on the foredeck, a MarQuipt kilogram hydraulic davit is also standard.

So, as they say, what'll she do? The 75 Yachtfisher has a comfo maximum cruising speed of 13.5 knots but, if you back off to a efficient cruising speed, she sips fuel at about 45 to 55 litres per This, of course, is a mere trickle compared to conventional sportfish 380 litres or more per hour.

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Nordhavn	BUILDER
Taiwan	COUNTRY OF BUILD
Jeff Leishman	DESIGNER
Jeff Leishman/Nordhavn	INTERIOR DESIGNER
2009	YEAR OF BUILD
22.7 metres (74'5")	LOA
22.4 metres (66'8")	LWL
6.8 metres (22'4")	BEAM
2.0 metres (6'6") half load	DRAFT
84.1 tonnes	DISPLACEMENT
composite	HULL
composite	SUPERSTRUCTURE
Detroit 60 x 2	ENGINES
740hp each	OUTPUT
4-blade 42"	PROPELLERS
14.3 knots	TOP SPEED
13.5 knots	SPEED CRUISE (MAX)
16,277 litres	FUEL CAPACITY
2,271 litres	FRESHWATER CAPACITY
757 litres	BLACKWATER CAPACITY
605 litres	GRAY WATER CAPACITY
ABT Bow & Stern	BOW THRUSTERS
Onan (2) 40kW and 21.5kW	GENERATORS
7-11	OWNER AND GUESTS (BERTHS)
1	CREW
Awlgrip	PAINT

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