



# THAI HOSPITALITY



DESIGNED WITH RELAXATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE IN MIND, THE ISLAND SPIRIT POWERCAT 390 OFFERS THE COMFORTS OF HOME WITHOUT COMPROMISING PERFORMANCE. *By Marc Lessen*

STEPPING ON BOARD the new Island Spirit Multihulls Powercat 390, it is strikingly clear the designers and builders have put a lot of thought into ensuring the comfort, entertainment and overall social experience of the passengers. However, a look beyond the unique lines of the made-in-Thailand Powercat 390 reveals design characteristics that set this brand new, high-speed, high-performance catamaran apart. With more than 20 years of experience building beautiful blue water sailboats, Island Spirit Multihulls has delivered an extremely efficient use of space in the 39-foot Powercat, boasting the largest interior area in the under-40 class.

The uncluttered and well thought out social environments of the Powercat 390 first struck me. Starting with the bridge, which hosts seating for eight to 10 guests and includes such practical built-ins as an integrated table/ ice chest, a captain's chair which converts into a guest

facing bench with the flip of the wrist and, of course, the Fusion sound system. The bridge deck also serves the very practical role of providing a commanding helm position with clearly laid out instrumentation and excellent overall visibility while cruising, anchoring and mooring.

Descending the rather steep ladder to the aft deck, seating for eight passengers offers another entertainment environment with all of the amenities featured throughout the boat: recessed LED lighting, and clean, uncluttered access to the swim platforms and main saloon. Under power, the throaty growl of the twin 75hp inboard Yanmar diesels does not make the aft deck an ideal environment for quiet contemplation. However at anchor, with the BBQ cooking, a gentle breeze blowing and the sun setting, I cannot think of a better place to enjoy a cocktail.



Island Spirit Multihulls' designers once again show their commitment to passenger social dynamics and entertainment through a clever, aft-facing galley orientation. The Corian countertops of the L-shaped galley face aft to a sliding window, allowing great airflow during food preparation and the galley crew can interact with those enjoying less labour-intensive endeavours on the aft deck.

The bright and airy main saloon boasts a 23-foot beam and 6'8" headroom with seating for 12 around beautifully finished, access friendly, split segment cherry wood dining tables. The open saloon and elegant, functional galley area continue the theme of a lifestyle pleasure craft where entertainment and social interaction are a priority. Think of a modern, open-plan living area with 360-degree ocean views and top-quality finishes.

The Powercat 390 is available in several layouts: two, three or four cabins – offering lifestyle design flexibility based on a customer's preference for a private luxury power catamaran, superb family cruiser or practical member of a charter fleet.

#### Day Out

On a somewhat swelly afternoon near Pattaya aboard *Dual Penetrator*, a recently launched two-cabin Powercat 390 under the capable command of Gulf Charters' Captain Ron Patston and the very knowledgeable Paul Reeves of Island Spirit Multihulls. While build options abound, *Dual Penetrator* offered all the comforts one would expect in a luxury power cat of this calibre: three 40-inch LCD TVs (with satellite packages and separate controllers for each screen), multiple and efficient air conditioning units, microwave oven, recessed LED lighting and – for the audiophiles – that incredible Fusion sound system.

The cabins are located about three quarters aft in each hull with full king-sized berths that are directly above the engine compartments. While the power plants are well insulated for heat and noise, sleeping while under power would prove a challenge. Besides, when this beautiful vessel is underway, the only place to be is above deck enjoying yourself. Both cabins offer standing headroom, dedicated AC units with thermostat, 40-inch LCD TVs and are finished in a teak and holly veneer with excellent natural light and ventilation provided by top and side hatches. The craftsmanship and attention to detail is followed throughout with excellent carpentry joins and virtually no square lines.



Each cabin in this Powercat 390 configuration has a private shower (with 6'10" headroom) and head forward. The thoughtful planning and attention to detail carried through even to these less glamorous, but most useful, rooms. Adequate hand holds, simple operation, plenty of natural light and first-class fittings ensure the electric toilets, sinks and showers are accessible and familiar – especially to non-boaters and those who become less than comfortable when below deck.

#### Performance

The Powercat 390 performed well in the moderate conditions experienced on a Sunday afternoon in Pattaya Bay, Thailand. With a northerly wind of about 12 knots and swell approaching one metre at times, even the most sensitive member of our team was comfortable lounging on the large forward deck trampoline. Like anything that floats, wind and wave angle will determine the comfort of the ride, but with plenty of power and superb manoeuvrability, a comfortable tack was always within reach.

Island Spirit has even addressed the rough-water performance and associated discomfort that has ruined many a day on the water for those of a more delicate nature. The Powercat 390's "wave piercing hulls" have forward sloping bows, perhaps one of the most noticeable characteristics of the boat's stylish lines. While traditional hull designs see the bow come up and forward to meet the deck, the extension of the hulls in front of the deck adds waterline without putting weight forward, giving greater punch through waves and adding stability on traditionally rough angles to the swell.

Engine noise was minimal on deck and nearly silent on the bridge, making normal conversation with our engaging hosts a pleasure – a challenge in many twin-engine boats of this size. The twin 75 HP, 16-valve Yanmar inboards provide 13 knots of cruising speed at an



economical 12 litres per hour, however, we were moving along quickly and quietly at just under 3,000 RPMs consuming a surprisingly welcome eight litres per hour.

Performance has been a top consideration for Island Spirit Multihulls from the very beginning – including the build process. Using vacuum-infused, negative pressure lay-up and a high-density DIAB Divinylcell PVC closed cell foam core, the hull and deck are 25 percent lighter and stiffer than traditional building methods. In addition, the technique eliminates voids in the laminate, preventing osmosis or “blistering” in the hull structure. This savings in weight translates into more performance from less horsepower.

Instrumentation, wiring and mechanical access ports are simply laid out and cleanly designed for user-friendly access. The builders also provide detailed wiring diagrams, user manuals and warranty information for all systems to make maintenance or modifications simple for trained technicians.

Responsive steering and thrust management are critical factors in any crowded marina and these considerations are even more significant in a catamaran due to the sheer size of the platform. I was impressed with the engine response and steering control as we backed into our slip, stepped off the boat and tied off without incident or concern. This is especially noteworthy considering the small skegs, which are lower than the propeller shaft to allow beaching of this vessel.

The Island Spirit 390 looks like it is moving when sitting at anchor, and feels like it is at anchor when moving through the water. Designed with comfort, entertainment and lifestyle in mind, the Powercat 390 offers the comforts of home without compromising performance. Fittings, equipment options and build processes all reflect the same commitment to detail and craftsmanship that have made Island Spirit a successful name in the sailing community for decades. The new Powercat products will certainly continue this reputation, and set new precedents for multihull powerboat enthusiasts.

[www.islandspiritmultihulls.com](http://www.islandspiritmultihulls.com)



#### ISLAND SPIRIT POWERCAT 390

Length	11.62m/ 38.12ft
Beam	6.90m/ 22.7ft
Draft	1m/ 3.8ft
Displacement	7.5 Tons/ 16534 Lbs
Fuel Capacity	570 Litres/ 150 US Gallons
Water Capacity	300L/ 80 US Gallons
Blackwater Tank (Optional)	100L/ 270 US Gallons
Engines	Twin 75 HP, 16-valve Yanmar diesel with shaft drive
Cruising speed	13 knots