



### 6 Questions to Ask A Boat Surveyor BEFORE Hiring Them

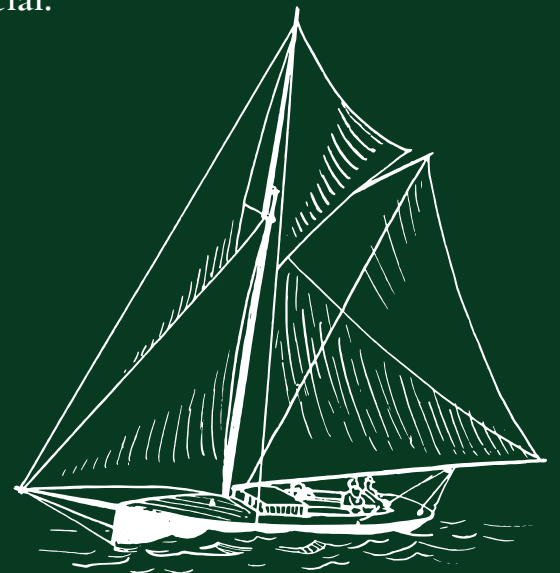
Are you looking to purchase a boat? If so, there is a high chance you want to have a good idea of the problems that exist or may exist when you buy that boat. To find this out, and for insurance purposes, most people hire a surveyor to write a survey report for them. These reports include any potential problems found, the equipment that exists on the boat and all of the technical information. It sounds simple enough, but looking for problems on a boat can be more difficult than it seems. Because of this we have drawn up a list of questions to ask any potential surveyors to make sure they are the right fit for the boat you are looking to buy.

1) What types of hulls do you have experience surveying?

This question is especially important if dealing with materials other than fibreglass. Steel boats have very different problems than wooden boats which have very different problems than fibreglass boats and choosing a surveyor who has experience with your hull type can mean the difference between living your dreams or losing every penny you put into a vessel. It sounds dramatic, but there are many horror stories of people thinking they were buying a beautiful steel boat and finding out soon that their boat was full of rust which could have been spotted, or at least pointed out as a potential, if their surveyor had let them know.

2) What was your career before this?

Surveyors come into their surveying careers with a wide range of skills. If those skills relate to the marine industry then having them as part of your team can be extremely beneficial.





# THE WAYWARD LIFE

3) Do you have any relevant boat experience outside of being a surveyor?

This question is similar to the above question, but it may help you to gain even more useful knowledge about their skillset. Have they spent much of their time on boats? Have they done boat repairs? Do they have experience fixing engines, building boats or maintaining boats?

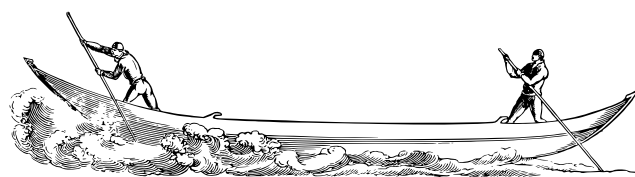
5) What bodies are you registered through?

There aren't any official training programs to become a boat surveyor, so pretty much anyone can decide to call themselves a surveyor and charge for those services. However, there are governing bodies in each country which license surveyors and which many insurance companies accept as credentials. If your insurance company isn't willing to accept your survey because your surveyor isn't part of an acceptable organization or on an underwriter's list then to some extent the survey is pointless. Make sure to ask so you can find out if hiring them is worth your time.

Not all surveyors are equal and if you are choosing to look at a boat that isn't solid fibreglass and production, this can become apparent very quickly. We hope these questions help you to find a surveyor that is the right fit for your boat needs and who will provide you with helpful and honest feedback so you can find the boat of your dreams!

4) Do you have any experience with this particular make and model?

Not all hulls are made the same. Each make, model and year of boat has unique problems and things to look out for. Having a surveyor who knows the particular boat you are looking at can be very beneficial when doing a survey.



6) Which areas of the boat will you be inspecting?

I think it's fair to assume that most people think surveyors look at everything when they are inspecting a boat. Oddly enough, this isn't usually true. Many, if not most surveyors are not mechanics and won't look at engines. Most also do not inspect electrical systems or electronics. If you are worried about either of these systems, you may be looking at hiring more professionals to help you inspect the boat.