



## AirBerths come to South Africa

**B**OATING World are proud to announce that they are now distributing AirBerths in South Africa. This is an Australian product manufactured in Malaysia.

The AirBerth works perfectly for all sorts of applications. The beauty of it is that it saves you taking your boat out of the water, you don't need to anti-foul and it's much quicker to use than a trailer.

It accommodates a variety of boats — monohulls or catamarans, as well as outboards, direct shafts or stern drive motors from 16ft up to 37ft and craft weighing up to ten tons. One customer has an AirBerth for his 37ft monohull flybridge craft with twin shaft diesels. He is based in Walvis Bay and has his AirBerth in the middle of the bay. He uses his generator to operate the AirBerth and has even built a float-garage around the boat to protect it.

To get a boat off the AirBerth, a rope is pulled to open a valve which releases the air out of the supporting tubes and fills them with water. The tubes sink at the stern and the boat floats off — quick and easy. When you drive a boat on, the AirBerth automatically centres the boat then, using electricity from a shore supply or generator, you pump the water out of the tube and the boat is out of the water again. This takes about four minutes.

The picture above is of an AirBerth which was recently delivered to a client in Gordons Bay. Before an AirBerth is ordered from the factory they need to know the boat's wet weight when fully loaded with fuel and equipment as well as the length of the boat. Prices start at R144 000 including Vat for the smallest, and go up to R340 000 for the 10 ton model. This excludes inland freight and installation.

For more information on the AirBerth e-mail <info@boatingworld.co.za> or phone (031) 332-1987.



## Max — your new best friend

**A**USTRALIA'S largest and most respected lure manufacturer, Halco Tackle Company, has announced the arrival of their new "Max" bibless minnow.

After heeding calls from many rock fishing and casting enthusiasts, Halco has developed a bibless minnow suitable for both casting and trolling applications. Affectionately named Max, one look at the lure tells you that Max is built with speed and castability in mind.

Max is 130mm long and weighs a substantial 80 grams. Its slender profile casts like a bullet into the strongest breezes and is heavy enough to run straight and true several metres below the surface in the roughest sea conditions. The weight and streamlined design also allow for maximum hook exposure which is

critical in lure design. Max's effective operating envelope is exceptional, ranging from a fast spinning retrieve to a racy 12 knots while trolling. It has already accounted for some impressive captures from wahoo to tuna and should be considered a "must have" in every fisherman's arsenal.

Like all Halco lures, Max is constructed of hi-tech polymers and has been built with strength and durability in mind. Heavy-duty Halco fish rings and three extra-strong Mustad hooks are standard equipment on Max which is available in nine fish-catching colours.

Go and meet Max at any good tackle store, or contact the South African distributors on 082 775 7661, e-mail <cobus@tackletraders.co.za>.

## Bertram — the legend lives on ...

**B**ERTRAM has always been about the ride, and Fred Fensham of CMH recently had the opportunity to spend a couple of days with two very special boats — a vintage 31 Bertram and a new 570 Bertram. It allowed him to relive a bit of the company's past and gain a sense of its future.

Bertram Yachts exist because of the 31 — a single design that revolutionised offshore powerboat racing and changed the way yachtsmen used their boats. The 31 Bertram would not have come about had it not been for a sailor's chance encounter with an odd boat — the prototype of a new design by C Raymond Hunt. Though his formal education ended at prep school, Hunt was thoroughly at home at sea and approached a wide variety of design challenges with practical experience and a flair for the unconventional. It is really quite amazing that at about the same time he penned what would become known as the deep-vee, he also doodled the soon to be 13-foot Boston Whaler on an envelope — arguably the two most influential and successful designs in a generation.

Dick Bertram recognized this genius and took time off from his yacht brokerage business to build a 31-foot version of Hunt's new deep-vee design. The boat was conceived as a



Meet **MAX**: The new bibless minnow from Halco.

You'll grow to love him too.



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