



SUGGED SHARK
APFCO

when designing its Gray Heron Deck Tech shoe. The company even went so far as to create a custom-molded rubber outsole that wraps around the side of the shoe for additional grip and traction along the inner wall of a boat's hull.

The Deck Tech also has drainage ports that channel out water from underneath the shoe, says Jerry Land, APFCO's director of marketing and development. "There are six of them — two on the heel, one in the center and three on the toe," Land says. "When you step on water, it diverts it out the side of the shoe."



GAINING TRACTION

Deck Shoes Are Serious Business for Serious Anglers



There's a reason boots are among the most popular pieces of gear on the boat. Deck shoes are no exception.

GET A GRIP

My sole feet from that trip off Florida's east coast was memorable for two reasons: First, we caught a bunch of fish... but I also ended up hobbling around on my sore feet for several days afterward.

"It's absolutely the most important," says Leo Butler, vice president of performance products at Sperry Top-Sider (sperrytopsider.com). "Your feet are the last point of contact, and you need great grip and traction so you can move confidently around the boat. People who don't wear boat shoes might be comfortable, but you really need the safety of a firm, secure grip."

Sperry knows boat shoes — the company's been making them since 1932. And while Butler says the natural tendency among anglers might be simply to wear a running shoe while fishing, "those types of shoes generally don't have several other important characteristics, such as a nonmarking traction outsole."

Nothing else does the boat deck intelligently, and Sperry's new Kangafoot and SH21 models both offer the company's Hydro-Grip rubber outsole that grabs the deck firmly with many small felt lugs.

SOLE SUPPORT

Wearing footwear that prevents slippage on a deck certainly enhances safety, but perhaps even more important for an angler's long term well-being is wearing shoes that offer consistent support all day long.

"You get a lot of abuse in the hull and in the forefoot when running boats," says Mike Wilks, Suggested Shark's vice president of sales. "We use a two-piece construction — the EVA midsole attached to a rubber outsole. This is more expensive to produce than many other one-piece soles, but it's great and foremost in our mind."

HIGH AND DRY

Anglers place a premium on keeping their feet dry. Lugs on the bottom of the Great White boot. This type of marine footwear is popular for its nonmarking outsole, and is incorporated into both the Kangafoot and SH2110 lines.

BRAND/MODEL	FEATURES	SIZES	COLORS	WIDTH	MSRP
APFCO Gray Heron	Optimized rubber, quick-dry nylon mesh, cushioned insole, shock-absorbent insole	8-13	White	M	\$149
Columbia Drifter	Textile midsole, outsole, drainage ports, expandable toe	8-12	Black, white, navy	M	\$80.00
Columbia Mocha	100% synthetic upper, 100% rubber outsole, shock absorber	7-12	Black, white, navy	M	\$65.00
Suggested Shark Kangafoot	Nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole, Phylon midsole, shock absorber, water-repellent	8-12	Copper, brown, white	M	\$199
Suggested Shark Kangafoot	Waterproof rubber outsole, nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole, shock absorber	8-12	White, navy	M	\$199
Suggested Shark SH210	Waterproof rubber outsole, nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole, shock absorber	7-12	White, navy	M	\$150.00
Suggested Shark SH2110	Waterproof rubber outsole, nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole, shock absorber	7-12	White, navy	M	\$150.00
Sperry Top-Sider Kangafoot	Nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole, Phylon midsole, shock absorber, water-repellent	7-12	White, navy	M	\$150.00
Sperry Top-Sider Kangafoot	Quick-dry, air-circulating, nonmarking Deck Grip rubber outsole	7-12	White, navy	M	\$150.00

SUGGED SHARK (SUGGESTEDSHARK.COM)

another footwear brand that has gained popularity in the marine world, has also paid special attention to the demands of saltwater anglers over the years. A division of GCI Footwear, Suggested Shark manufactures a special midsole into its boat shoes, such as the company's Kangafoot Atlantic model.

"It's a compressed EVA midsole that reduces angler fatigue," says Mike Wilks, Suggested Shark's vice president of sales. "We use a two-piece construction — the EVA midsole attached to a rubber outsole. This is more expensive to produce than many other one-piece soles, but it's great and foremost in our mind."

WATER-RESISTANT

Water is a major concern for anglers, and Sperry's new Kangafoot and SH21 models both offer the company's Hydro-Grip rubber outsole that grabs the deck firmly with many small felt lugs.

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NIGHT MOVES

How Thermal and Low-Light Cameras Aid Piloting and Fishing



Even anglers in small boats can use the benefits of night vision.

As you saw the movie 'The Silence of the Lambs' could never forget the final scenes where the serial killer and FBI agent stare through darkened rooms with night-vision goggles. If you're like me, you're probably the quiet, methodical, and precise the killer's presence. Remarkably, she did. She surprised, and we all were better off for it.

The ability to see in the dark adds a whole other level of awareness. That extra benefit on the water might also save your life.

During the past few years, more and more anglers have installed infrared (thermal) and low-light cameras aboard their vessels. These special 'eyes' not only help anglers navigate at night, but also help them see water temperature breaks, currents, holes and other marine animals that might signal fish.

"I can see hard temperature breaks of 2 to 3 degrees. It looks like the yellow brick road," says Capt. Bob DeCosta, who runs a 25-foot custom boat with a FLIR B6 Series M320L thermal low-light camera out of Nantucket, Massachusetts (www.flir.com, ebay.com/flir). "You

definitely see rips and cold edges, and for us here in the Northeast, we can see whales and birds that signal fish."

HEAT AND LIGHT

The use of night-vision cameras transmitted from military and commercial to recreational vessels as technology advanced and prices began to drop — mostly within the past decade. FLIR Systems (flir.com) introduced Navigator, Voyager and M-Series mounted cameras followed by the handheld F-Series series in rapid succession.

The 2006, we started installing thermal cameras in BMY's as a 20,000 option," says Andy Truch, FLIR's president. "We saw it as a useful feature for drivers. We used that automotive market to drive the rest of thermal detectors and made them viable for other applications. Boating is kind of an ideal application for thermal imaging" — no streetlights and no forward-burning lights.

The real magic happens from low-light viewing in several ways, though DeCosta says he uses both functions — "Staring between the two cameras to



LIVING WITH ETHANOL

Here Are Five Ways to Coexist with Ethanol-Laced Gas



No more engine oil. Gas up or you can't start. Ethanol fuel is a fire hazard. Use caution.

engine walls of protest from the marine industry. Ethanol-laced gasoline is here to stay. What's more, percentages are likely to rise in the future, thanks to possible labeling efforts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that increase the allowable level of ethanol in gasoline from 10 percent (E10) to 15 percent (E15).

That's a big problem for boat owners, since no marine engine will operate reliably on anything over E10. In fact, EPA agrees, and an E15 mix is not allowed for sale at fuel docks.

Yet, an estimated 90 percent of the 12 million registered boats in the U.S. are on trailers, and most of these are fueled with ethanol.

What this means is that boating anglers must be more vigilant about ethanol. It might be a good idea to contain more than 10 percent ethanol in gasoline containing more than 10 percent ethanol in gasoline. This is a big deal for boat owners, since no marine engine will operate reliably on anything over E10. In fact, EPA agrees, and an E15 mix is not allowed for sale at fuel docks.

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GAME PLAN

Designed to provide readers first-person, hands-on advice from professionals, Game Plan offers a broad how-to perspective on specific ways readers can improve their success. Based on topics generated by *SPORT FISHING* editors, Game Plan features detailed information provided by expert skipper and guides from around the world.

NEW BOATS

Hands-on boat and color profiles give manufacturers more visibility for their new models while summarizing for readers the best attributes of each boat. Published in fixed-format style, the boat profiles feature two boats per issue, detailing performance highlights, design/construction and fishability. In addition to the featured boats, two boat introductions are included in each issue.

GEAR GUIDE

This department offers unique comparisons of fishing tackle and other gear that anglers rely on for success in their sport, and delves into its design, construction and optimal use.

FISH FACTS

The unique format of Fish Facts gives readers a chance to ask questions and submit photos that a panel of five professional marine biologists answers. If a reader's item is published in Fish Facts, he or she receives more than 1,000 yards of Berkley line.

BETTER BOATING

Designed to provide a broad range of information, this department helps the readers purchase/maintain/run/fish their boats more effectively and safely.

ELECTRONICS

Electronics showcases new developments and provides insight into trends, applications and instruction, enabling the reader to maximize benefits of his equipment and make wise purchases.

TRAVELING ANGLER

Hot reports, inside tips and offbeat news characterize this lively department dedicated to anglers who travel to destinations near and far in pursuit of great fishing.

PHOTO CONTEST

This one-page department highlights winning reader-submitted images from our website. Readers are encouraged to go to sportfishingmag.com.