

XR-MARINER™ A PATENT-PENDING FABRIC FOR INFLATABLE BOATS

Keeps Fishermen Safely Afloat on Colorado's White Waters



Wild rainbows, browns, cutthroats and brookies are all prizes in the rivers that wind through Colorado's Rocky Mountains. This is a trout fisherman's paradise. Locating their favorite hiding places, however, can be tricky. Particularly since the waters they congregate boast up to Class V rapids – the kind navigable only by experts.

Barry Simmers, a 30-year veteran fly fisherman, knows how to find these fish. Simmers is the owner and lead guide for Colorado Fishing Guides based in Bond, Colorado. According to him, knowing where to look is important, but having the right vessel is essential.

"I need a boat that gives me confidence," said Simmers. "Safety is the number one concern in this sport. I have to be on my game every day. Things can happen."

Stability, agility and durability are key qualities for survival in white waters. Inflatable boats are the most versatile option because of their soft hulls. Hard-hulled boats are rigid and when they hit rocks, they can easily flip and sink, whereas inflated hulls cause a boat to bounce off of, or slide over the rocks.

Simmers drives a fishing boat manufactured by Aire, the nation's leading outfitter for inflatable boats. To stay afloat, this boat relies on the revolutionary patented XR-Mariner fabric technology by Seaman Corporation.

XR-Mariner is designed specifically for the marine industry to outperform alternatives like hypalon. Suitable for many types of inflatable boats, including RIBs and soft bottom tenders, XR-Mariner's unique coating formula is based on DuPont™ Elvaloy, a polymer recognized for its advanced long-term weathering properties. This, combined with a high strength proprietary base fabric also developed by Seaman Corporation, yields a product with resistance to UV rays, abrasion, tear and puncture that is superior to hypalon and other competitive products.

"These boats take a beating," commented Simmers. "Apart from bumping and scraping over rocks, they also have to endure the lures and flies that get caught on the boat, and the sand and rocky gravel grit that my customers bring in on the soles of their boots as they climb in and out of the boat all day."

Let's not forget the radiant Colorado sun. Some locals boast enjoying it more than 300 days each year. XR-Mariner can take it, which saves fishermen the hassle and cost of storing the boat between uses and seasons.

Cleaning up the river residue is easy too. Most grime wipes off the fabric with a damp towel and some elbow grease, or, if necessary, with a basic cleaning solution. For tired fishermen who plan to beat the crack of dawn to get back on the water the next day, this is important.

XR-Mariner fabric also has the unique feature of being sealable using dielectric, hot air or sonic welding techniques. Fabric with welded seams is proven to be an advantage over competitive alternatives like hypalon, which rely solely on adhesives for seaming. Welded seams are stronger, hold air better and last longer in the sun.

Kurt Hagadorn, a doctor from Salt Lake City and avid fisherman, fishes these mountain rivers with Simmers. "This is the best boat I have ever fished out of," he reported. "The ride of the boat is far above anything I have been in. Safety is a big concern to me and I have felt very safe on this boat, especially in the rough water."

Boats built with XR-Mariner fabric are proving to deliver the stability, agility and durability that fishermen need in the roughest mountain waters. Even in the presence of Colorado's Class V rapids, XR-Mariner makes fishermen more confident. Let the fish be forewarned: you can swim, but you can't hide!

