

comes into its own. This boat is by far the easiest non-board catamaran to tack. It will tack easily, quickly with good momentum and excellent acceleration. The jib should never hang up on the mast. This ease of tacking makes the G-Cat an exceptional boat for single-handed sailing in all but the most severe wind and sea conditions.

Jibing the G-Cat is straightforward and simple. The reserve buoyancy in the bows reduces the possibility of a broach due to an accidental jibe.

The overall feel of the G-Cat is light with a slight weather helm. The efficient layout of the controls and the ease of tacking make this boat a good vessel for new catamaran sailors while G-Cat's power and overall tuning capabilities make it functional for more serious racers.

SUBJECTIVE RATINGS

Rigging and Setup **Score 8**

The rigging setup of the G-Cat is fairly standard and easily accomplished. There is adequate adjustment to suit most conditions and the forward trampoline is an excellent addition to simplify sail raising and lowering at a dock.

Mast Stepping **Score 9**

The lack of diamond wires simplifies the mast stepping process on the G-Cat, which, with some planning and forethought, can be easily stepped by one person.

Beaching **Score 7**

Although the rudder system is first class, the shape of the hulls tends to make the G-Cat more difficult to pull through sand. The V-shape is inclined to dig into the sand, and the boat must be lifted at one end or the other to facilitate the pulling process. Once the proper technique has been determined, however, the G-Cat is relatively easy to move over the beach.

Rudder Control **Score 10**

The rudder system on the G-Cat is undoubtedly the simplest to use of any on the market. Combined with good helm feel, an adjustable tiller extension, and a relatively efficient rudder design, the rudder system on the G-Cat rates the highest score.

Helm Feel **Score 9**

The G-Cat has a light, responsive

feel to the helm with a slight weather helm. Overall control is excellent and the G-Cat is very responsive.

Hull Flying Control **Score 9**

The low center of effort at the sail plan reduces the heeling moment and causes the G-Cat to fly a hull slightly later than similar catamarans. Control is very good and the boat responds to both sheeting and tiller movements.

Ease of Righting **Score 9**

The G-Cat is not likely to turn turtle when capsized, but this remains a possibility in heavy air. It normally requires two people to right a G-Cat.

Tacking **Score 10**

As we have discussed, the craft is very easy to tack, mostly because of its hull design and the battenless jib. This characteristic makes the G-Cat excellent for beginning sailors for single-handed sailing in anything but heavy air.

Jibing **Score 9**

The G-Cat, as with most catamarans, jibes smoothly and quickly. It maintains good momentum and has excellent acceleration after the jibe has been completed.

Sail Control **Score 8**

The sail control on the main is excellent. The full width traveler track on the aft beam and the roller bearing traveler car provide excellent sheeting angles for the mainsail and the other sail controls—outhaul, downhaul, and mast rotation—allow good sail adjustment for all points of sail. The optional seven to one purchase mainsheet system is probably a good idea. The control of the jib is not quite as easy to handle as the mainsail. The barber-hauler system is slightly cumbersome and the jib sheet system has a tendency to block at times.

Storage **Score 9**

Built-in storage is limited but with the optional front trampoline, plenty of storage space is available for weekend or more extended cruising trips.

Cruising Ability **Score 10**

The G-Cat is unbeatable in its size range here. With the forward trampoline, all the gear and supplies

necessary for weekend or even more extended cruising trips can be accommodated.

Hardware **Score 9**

All of the hardware of the G-Cat is first-rate.

Construction Quality **Score 9**

The overall construction of the boat is excellent. The hulls appear to be very strong, as do the mounting points for the crossbars.

Class Racing **Score 6**

As the G-Cat gains in national popularity, class racing will improve. This boat has great potential for mass appeal because of its performance and price tag.

Open-racing Competitiveness **Score 9**

From racing results in open competition racing, the G-Cat seems to perform very well. The boat has a good rating and seems to be able to sail very close to its rating. Race results should improve as skippers of this design become more familiar with it.

Cost **Score 9**

The G-Cat 5 Meter is very competitively priced at \$3,400.

Overall Finished Detailed **Score 9**

Overall finish of the G-Cat is impressive. This catamaran has a number of touches that further refine its finished look, among them castings on the end of the crossbars. The arrangement of the gear onboard makes the total product quite attractive.

Summary

The G-Cat, in many ways, is a surprising catamaran. The hull design, which is unique to cats, is also remarkably efficient and makes the boat very maneuverable as well as easy to tack. Its overall simplicity is a solid plus. The craft shows great racing potential. It's an ideal family boat and day sailor, but is also suitable for weekend coastal cruising or island hopping.

The G-Cat 5 Meter's multi-faceted personality, combined with a reasonable price tag, make it a catamaran to contend with in today's competitive market.