



KSB
KENNY SCOTT BOATS

A Practical Guide to Buying the Right Boat

How to Choose the Right Boat for Real-World Use

kennyscottboats.com

INTRODUCTION

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Buying a boat in the Caribbean or Florida isn't the same as buying one anywhere else.

You're dealing with saltwater all the time, strong sun, and in many cases, offshore conditions that require a boat to perform properly, not just look good. A lot of buyers focus on price, appearance, or what's available immediately. Then later on, they realize the boat doesn't really suit how they use it. This guide is here to help you avoid that.

HOW WILL YOU BE USING THE BOAT?

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Before looking at models or pricing, the first thing to get clear on is: What are you actually going to use the boat for consistently?

EVERYTHING ELSE DEPENDS ON THAT. SOME COMMON USES:

- Offshore or deep-sea fishing
- Inshore fishing
- Charter or tour work
- Commercial or utility use
- Leisure or multi-purpose use
- Inter-island travel

The main thing to understand is that **a good boat isn't adjusted after it's built to fit your needs.** It's built that way from the start.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE & SIZE

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Center Console

If you need one boat that can handle different types of use, especially offshore, a properly built center console usually makes more sense long-term. It is one of the most practical options for versatility and general all-around use.

YOU GET:

- Open layout
- Easy movement around the boat
- Good offshore performance

This is why, in many cases, center console builds are used across different applications from private use to charter and commercial work.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SIZE

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SIZE ISN'T JUST ABOUT PREFERENCE. IT AFFECTS:

- how the boat performs
- how safe it feels offshore,
- how practical it is day-to-day

A smaller boat may cost less upfront, but can limit you once you start going further offshore.

A larger boat gives you more space and stability, but comes with higher running costs.

THE RIGHT SIZE DEPENDS ON:

- How far offshore you plan to go
- How many people you'll usually have onboard
- What you're using the boat for most often

In the Caribbean, size also affects how practical the boat is for inter-island travel. A properly sized boat gives you the range, stability, and space needed to move between neighboring islands more comfortably and confidently. It also helps avoid the unnecessary running costs that come with operating a boat larger than you actually need.



KSB 290

A smaller boat, like the **KSB 290**, works well for inshore to moderate offshore use. It's easier to handle day-to-day and suits more flexible, mixed use.



KSB 376

Mid-size builds, like the **KSB 376**, offer a strong balance. You get more offshore capability, better stability, and even more space for charter, fishing, or multi-purpose use



KSB 429

Larger builds, such as the **KSB 429**, are better suited for heavier offshore conditions, commercial applications, or when you need to carry more people and equipment comfortably

Getting this wrong is one of the most common mistakes buyers make



WHAT MOST PEOPLE OVERLOOK: BUILD QUALITY

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Two boats can look similar, but perform completely differently. The difference usually comes down to how they're built.

THINGS THAT MATTER:

- Hull design (especially for offshore conditions)
- Fiberglass construction
- Structural reinforcement
- How materials are layered and cured
- Accessibility to systems and components

A properly built fiberglass boat isn't rushed. It's built in stages, with time allowed for curing and bonding. That's what gives it strength and long-term reliability.

Good build quality also means systems are accessible and laid out properly, making maintenance and servicing easier over time. If those details are compromised, you'll feel it later.

BUILD TIME VS BUYING IMMEDIATELY

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A proper build takes time. Fiberglass needs to be cured properly. Each stage of the process has to be completed before moving on to the next. Rushing it affects strength, finish, and how the boat performs over time.

Build timelines can vary, but a full custom build is typically planned over several months.

If you need a boat immediately, a used option might seem easier but usually comes with trade-offs. If you're planning long-term use, waiting for a properly built boat is usually the better decision.

NEW VS USED BOATS

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A lot of buyers start by looking at used boats. Sometimes that works, but not always.

In many cases, by the time you're spending that kind of money, you're not far off from building something new.

Used boat:

- Unknown history
- Possible structural wear
- Limited customization
- Ongoing adjustments

New custom build:

- Built around how you'll actually use it
- No unknown issues
- Layout and setup done correctly from the start

BUILD TIME

A properly built new boat often delivers better long-term value, not just upfront savings.

WHAT AFFECTS THE PRICE

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Boat pricing depends on more than just size. It comes down to:

- Engine setup
- Layout and customization
- Electronics and onboard systems
- Specialty fixtures and fittings
- Custom finishes

Lower-cost boats often cut corners in areas you don't immediately see, like structure and materials.

A well-built boat also tends to hold its value better over time, especially when it's built with quality materials and a practical layout.

WATER CONDITIONS

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BOATS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND FLORIDA NEED TO HANDLE REAL OFFSHORE CONDITIONS:

- Rough water and changing sea conditions
- Constant saltwater exposure
- Heat and UV
- Long runs offshore or between islands

A properly built offshore boat should feel stable, predictable, and dry in rougher conditions, not just in calm water. Hull design, weight distribution, and construction all affect how the boat performs when conditions change. Offshore fishing, inter-island travel, and changing weather all require a boat that handles confidently and comfortably.

A boat designed mainly for calm or inland waters won't perform the same way offshore.



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE BUILD

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Throughout the build process, you're kept updated so you always know the progress of the boat and how the build is coming together.

During the earlier stages, adjustments can still be made to layout, rigging, and key features.

Final finishes, colours, and smaller details are usually completed closer to the end of the build.

The goal is to keep the process straightforward, collaborative, and built around how you actually want the boat set up.

OWNERSHIP & MAINTENANCE

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A well-built fiberglass boat is designed for long-term use, but like any boat, it still requires maintenance.

The advantage of a properly built boat is that structural issues are far less likely, and systems are installed in a way that makes them easier to access.

ONGOING UPKEEP GENERALLY INCLUDES:

- Regular cleaning (*especially saltwater exposure*)
- Engine servicing
- Basic inspections over time

BUYING FROM OVERSEAS

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If you're buying a boat from outside your location, the process should be clear and manageable. In most cases:

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- The build is planned and discussed in advance
- You're updated throughout the process
- Shipping can be arranged and handled
- For neighboring Caribbean islands, boats can often be delivered under their own power. Owners or captains can collect the boat.

When you're working with a builder who has experience exporting, the process is straightforward

COMMON MISTAKES BUYERS MAKE

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THESE COME UP ALL THE TIME:

1. Choosing based on looks instead of use
2. Underestimating offshore conditions
3. Going too small or underpowered
4. Trying to make one boat do everything without planning
5. Buying used without understanding long-term costs

FINAL THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

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BEFORE YOU MOVE FORWARD, MAKE SURE YOU'RE CLEAR ON:

1. What you'll actually use the boat for
2. Whether the boat is built for your conditions
3. The quality of the construction
4. Whether you're compromising on anything important

NEXT STEPS

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If you're considering building a boat, the next step is a simple conversation.

Go through how you plan to use it, what makes the most sense for your setup, and what to expect from the process.

There's no pressure to commit. You can reach out directly to discuss your build, ask questions, or get a better idea of what's involved.



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**Built for the Caribbean.
Built to last offshore.**