

## **Simmons Sea-Skiff** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Simmons Sea-Skiff**

by Gene Purcell, 2006



Simmons Sea Skiff, ca. 1950s. Image courtesy of Simmons Sea-Skiff.

<sup>[2]</sup>From 1950 through the 1960s, [T. N. Simmons](#) <sup>[3]</sup> and his son built hundreds of small boats on the North Carolina coast that many regarded as the best sportfishing and recreational power boats available. Never manufactured on a large scale, the vessels were simply purchased shortly after Simmons finished them. He initially used juniper in their construction, though he later switched to mahogany for the frames and 3/8-inch marine plywood for planking. Most models had an outboard motor as well. Although large motors became available and were used on the boat, Simmons insisted that an 18-horsepower engine was the correct size for his unusual skiff.

Simmons sea-skiffs, both beautiful and seaworthy, are regarded as classics by their owners. In the early 2000s the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) <sup>[4]</sup> maintained three of these boats for use in putting down survey stakes and similar duties; other owners and builders included residents of several foreign countries in addition to those of southeastern North Carolina.

#### **References:**

David Carnell, "Mister Simmons' Wonderful Boat," *Wildlife in North Carolina* (June 1987).

Bob Simpson and Mary Simpson, "In Search of the Simmons Sea Skiff," *Small Boat Journal* (November 1986).

#### **Additional Resources:**

Simmons Sea-Skiff: <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/SSS%20history/index.htm> <sup>[3]</sup>

#### **Image Credit:**

Simmons Sea Skiff, ca. 1950s. Image courtesy of Simmons Sea-Skiff <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/> <sup>[2]</sup>.

#### **Subjects:**

[21st Century \(2001-present\)](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[Transportation](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

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[Purcell, Gene](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

[Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

#### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

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#### **Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/simmons-sea-skiff> <sup>[2]</sup> <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/> <sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.simmonsseaskiff.com/SSS%20history/index.htm> <sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.usace.army.mil/> <sup>[5]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/21st-century-2001> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/post-war-20th-cen> <sup>[7]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/transportation> <sup>[8]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/purcell-gene> <sup>[9]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-pl> <sup>[10]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->

