



BUYER'S GUIDE: SURVEYORS & MARINAS

When purchasing a yacht, selecting the right marine surveyor is one of the most important decisions you'll make. The survey and sea trial not only protects your investment but also satisfies requirement for financing and insurance.

We recommend beginning your search at the Society of Accredited marine Surveyors (SAMS®) website: www.marinesurvey.org There you'll find a directory of professional surveyors, including their certifications and specialties.

✓ UNDERSTANDING SURVEYOR DESIGNATIONS

When reviewing surveyors, you'll notice different membership categories:

- **AMS® (Accredited marine Surveyor):** Fully accredited professionals with proven experience and expertise. Their reports are accepted by lenders and insurance companies, making them the gold standard for buyers.
- **SA (Surveyor Associate):** Surveyors who are gaining experience and working toward accreditation. They may assist or train under AMS® surveyors but their reports typically do NOT meet financing or insurance requirements.
- **AFF (Affiliate Member):** Marine industry professionals (such as appraisers or brokers) who are affiliated with SAMS® but not practice as surveyors. Their reports are not valid for financing or insurance.

Why this matters: Choosing an AMS® surveyor ensures your inspection will be recognized by banks and insurance providers and gives you confidence that your vessel has been thoroughly evaluated by an experienced professional.

✓ HOW TO BOOK A SURVEYOR

1. **Start Early:** Surveyors book up quickly, especially in peak boating season. Contact one as soon as your offer is accepted.
2. **Confirm Credentials:** Verify the surveyor's designation (look for AMS®) and ask about their specialty (sailboats, powerboats, engines, rigging, etc....)
3. **Schedule the Haul-out:** Coordinate with your broker and marina boat yard for a haul-out appointment. The surveyor will need the vessel out of the water for a full hull inspection. This date does need to be coordinated with the surveyor, yard, seller.
4. **Plan for a Sea Trial:** Ensure the seller has the vessel ready and fueled so systems can be tested underway. Your yacht salesperson will help in coordinating this.



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Yacht Sales

5. **Review the Report:** Even though the surveyor will provide you with a verbal report at the end of the survey he will also provide you with a full written report within a few days. This document will be required by your lender and insurance company and serves as your Ference for condition, repairs, or negotiations. This report is yours and only to whom you share it will be able to see it. Your yacht salesperson is happy to help you review and discuss if you so desire.

Think of your surveyor as your advocate. A great survey not only identifies potential issues but also builds confidence in your purchase, giving you peace of mind as you move toward closing.

✓ LOCAL MARINE SURVEYORS

When it comes to buying a yacht, having a skilled accredited marine surveyor by your side is non-negotiable. A hull survey is the foundation of any yacht purchase. Hull surveyors inspect the vessel's structure above and below the waterline, identifying issues such as osmotic blistering, delamination, damage, or compromised thru-hulls. Their expertise ensures the yacht is sound, seaworthy, and ready for extended use. This step helps buyers avoid costly surprises and provides critical leverage in negotiations. Below are local Accredited Marine Surveyors serving the St. Augustine, FL area.

- **RJE Marine Services | Robert J. Eldridge, AMS® | 910-232-8356**
 - Based in St Augustine, AMS® accredited since 2007
 - Offers pre-purchase, insurance, condition/value, and damage surveys.
 - Specializes in both sail and power vessels
 - Known for thorough reports and clear communication.
- **Accurate Marine Surveys| Gary Frankovich, AMS® | 904-377-0475**
 - Highly experienced in pre-purchase and insurance surveys
 - Recognized for practical, hands-on knowledge and detailed inspections
 - Specializes in both sail and power vessels
 - Longstanding presence in the St Augustine and Jacksonville boating community.
- **CYA Maritime Services | Michael Hagan, AMS® | 904-219-0528**
 - Based in Jacksonville, FL
 - Offers pre-purchase surveys - yacht and small craft
 - Insurance surveys - yacht and small craft
 - Specializes in both sail and power vessels
- **Capo Maine Surveys & Services | Byron Capo, AMS® | 904-814-6975**
 - 30+ years of local boating and USCG Master Captain experience
 - Specializes in both sail and power vessels.
 - Affiliated with SAMS® and ABYC, highly trusted in the region.



All are fully accredited by SAMS®, ensuring their surveys are accepted by banks and insurance companies, and all are known for professionalism, thoroughness, and timely reports.

✓ **RIGGING SURVEYOR IN THE NORTHEAST REGION**

Rigging inspections are a critical part of ensuring a sailboat’s safety, reliability, and performance. Standing and running rigging endure constant strain from wind and sails, and even minor wear can lead to costly repairs or dangerous failures underload. A rigging surveyor carefully evaluates shrouds, stays, terminals, turnbuckles, and running gear for signs of corrosion, fatigue, or damage. By addressing these issues early, buyers protect their investment, extend the life of the rig, and enjoy peace of mind knowing the vessel is seaworthy and ready for adventure.

- Sail Ready LLC | Ric Gardner | 904-484-6273
- Argonaut Rigging | Jason | 904-599-3425
- The Yacht Rigger | 727 490-9553

✓ **ENGINE SURVEYORS IN THE NORTHEAST REGION**

The engine is the heart of any yacht, whether power or sail, and its reliability is essential for safe cruising. An engine surveyor performs a detailed inspection that goes far beyond a simple start-up check. They assess overall condition, service history, compression, cooling and exhaust systems, fuel delivery, and alignment, often including oil analysis to detect hidden problems. This comprehensive review helps buyers avoid unexpected breakdowns, budget for maintenance, and confirm the engine can support their boating plans. A proper engine survey provides invaluable confidence at closing and saves money in the long run.

- First Mate Yacht Services | Yanmar | 904-829-0184
- St Augustine Diesel Specialist, Inc. | Man | 386-503-0513
- Jones Diesel and Marine | CAT, Cummins, Detroit | 833-692-3516
- The Engine Guy | Diesel Engines | 386-338-8388

✓ **BOAT YARDS IN ST AUGUSTINE**

- **Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor | 904-342-5159**
 - Sheltered Haul Out well off of the ICW
 - The well is shallow
 - They only haul over the lunch hour Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday



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- **St Augustine Marine Center | 904-418-6800**
 - On the San Sabastian River
 - Heavy cross current
 - Preferred haul-out time would be during slack. A second option would be incoming since that would push away from the docks.
 - This is the only yard that can haul out a catamaran – the well up to 23 feet – anything larger on the crawler which can only be at high tide and within their normal business hours.
 - They require contract, payment, and insurance listing them as an additional insured.
- **Oasis Boat Yard | 904-824-2520**
 - On the San Sabastian River
 - Heavy cross current
 - Preferred haul-out time would be during slack. A second option would be outgoing since that would push away from the docks.
- **Xynides Boat Yard | 904-824-3446**
 - On the San Sabastian River
 - Heavy cross current
 - Preferred haul-out time would be high slack, the well is shallow.

✓ MARINAS IN ST AUGUSTINE

- Windward at Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor | 904-829-5676
 - Popular with both locals and transients
 - Fuel and pump-out
- St Augustine Municipal Marina | 904-825-1026
 - Primarily transient slips in the heart of downtown.
 - Mooring balls with shuttle service every two hours until 6PM
- Conch House Marina & Resort | 904-829-8646
 - Primarily focused on powerboats
 - Restaurant, Tiki Bar, and resort amenities
- Rivers Edge Marina | 904-827-05220
 - Smaller quieter option along the San Sebastian River
 - Provides slips, basic services, and convenient access to downtown.
- Hidden Harbor Marina | 904-575-2497
 - Docks gated
 - Provides slips, basic services, and convenient access to downtown.
 - Restaurant, Bar, and Resort amenities
- Marker 8 Marina & Resort | 904-829-9042



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- Provides slips, basic services, and convenient access to downtown.
- Prefer transients
- Oasis Boat Yard & Marina | 904-824-2520
 - Gated access
 - Provides slips, basic services, and convenient access to downtown.
- English Landing | 904-669-7363
 - Gated access
 - Provides slips, basic services, and convenient access to downtown.
 - Food Trucks on site
- Fish Island Marina
 - Very Shallow

Slip availability in St Augustine can be limited, especially during peak season. If you plan to keep your new vessel locally, we recommend reserving a spot as soon as your offer is accepted. Most marinas make it easy by accepting bookings online through www.dockwa.com, so you can secure your slip or mooring with just a few clicks.

✓ MARINAS IN JACKSONVILLE

- Fort Geroge Island Marina
- St Johns Boat Company
- Morningstar Marina | Mayport
- Seafarers Marina
- Metropolitan Park Marina
- Plaza Marina
- Port 32 Jacksonville
- Windward at Sadler Point
- Doctors Lake Marina
- Fleming Island Marina