

17' Boston Whaler Owner

Thank you for your interest in Fishmaster. We designed the Fishmaster around the needs of owners of boats in the 17' to 25' range and in virtually all cases the deck is flat from bow to stern, especially around the console. Soon after we began offering the T-Top we began receiving much interest from owners of 17' Whalers and one of our first shipments was to a 1995 17' Whaler owner. He was disappointed to learn that his boat was angled on the floor at the front of the console. If he moved the T-Top rearward the rear base was then a problem for accessing the seat. We looked at many options to solve this problem but ultimately he needed to return the T-Top as we could not determine an adequate solution promptly.

We have done much research on the 17' Whaler taking to Boston Whaler support, at sites like continuouswave.com and other sites dedicated to Whaler owners, talking to owners, looking at pictures at boattrader.com and visiting many marinas gathering data about deck/floor configuration. Unfortunately the more information we obtained the more difficult the problem became to come up with a universal solution.

At first it was looking good as the models have specific periods where the hull is the same.

From 1961 to 1972 it was called the 16' and had the same hull

From 1973 to 1975 all had the same hull and became the 17'

From 1976 to 2001 the design remained the same.

In 2002 the above design was sold as the "classic along with a new 2002 design The new design of 2002 is the same as what is made today.

The idea was to create an adapter plate for the years this was an issue.

Unfortunately field work and talking to various owners of 17' Whalers has proven a much larger problem exists. Although the hull changes above are documented, there were continual interior changes that were not documented anywhere. From one year to the next the console often changed in location or design, or both. The big problem we found was that many changes were made to the interior or deck with each hull design and this was never documented anywhere. This means there is not a likely way to make a universal adapter or plate to address different floor configurations.

As a 17' Whaler owner interested in a Fishmaster T-Top it is important that you review the dimensions of the Fishmaster T-Top (next page) and determine if your deck/floor is flat at the mounting locations. Unfortunately if it will not work we do not have a solution yet.

We are continuing to learn about this application and are looking at design changes to our current design as well as new product designs for this application.

Thank you again for your interest in Fishmaster



