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Independent info for the fishboat addicted.

Velodyne Martini: The fishing boat of the future?



The Velodyne Martini was introduced to the world at the Miami Boat Show.

File this one under unique: the [Velodyne](#) Martini was introduced at the Miami Boat Show, and while it may not be the most practical looking design in the world, in many ways, it was the most interesting boat in town. This is a catamaran with an elevated deck, as you can see in the picture. But what makes it really unusual is the arms that support that deck over the hull - they move. And they move a lot.

Essentially, the Velodyne's arms use electro-pneumatic motion to hold the deck level and steady, as the hulls go up and down over waves. Test runs at the show proved that the system works - though it does, as you might guess, cost an arm and a leg. And this is just an experimental prototype. The hulls are merely a pair of pontoons Velodyne purchased, and most of the pieces-parts are CNC-shaped aluminum. Power comes courtesy of a pair of 150-hp outboards bolted onto the back of each pontoon.

Impacts are mitigated and rocking and rolling eliminated by a computer, which is linked to the suspension system. It gathers split-second motion data via accelerometers on each corner of the boat, and a gyroscope. As each hull moves the computer calculates an appropriate counter-action to keep the deck steady, and initiates it. Moving through the water with a three-foot chop, they system works so well you won't even spill your drink - hence the model's name.

Sorry, folks, there's no fishing version available at this point. Velodyne could build you one on a custom basis if you're willing to spend cash like the Federal Government, and they're currently talking with a film company about making one to serve as a rock-steady on-the-water filming platform. But stay tuned. If the technology can be mass-produced and brought down to a reasonable cost, there's no reason in the world it shouldn't be a smashing success. After all, who wouldn't be thrilled to stop getting smashed around by waves?

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