



the bohting company



Captain Jay's

Actual Boat Cost Calculator Guide

5-Year Financial Reality Check for Tampa Bay Boat Owners

Captain Jay's Philosophy:

"The boat costs \$50,000. Year one? \$73,000. If you can't afford 150% of sticker in the first year, you can't afford the boat."

Transaction Costs (Upfront)

Example: \$50,000 boat

- Florida Sales Tax (6.5%): \$3,250
- County Tax (0.5–1.5%): \$250–750
- Title Transfer Fee: \$77
- Registration (Length-based): \$96–384
- Survey (Required): \$18–22/ft, min \$500 (~\$600 for 25')
- Haul-out for Survey: \$200–400 (~\$300)
- Attorney/Escrow (if complex): \$300–600 (~\$450)
- Financing Origination (if loan): 1–2% (~\$800)

✓ Total Acquisition: \$54,500–56,200

First-Year Shock Costs

Insurance (Tampa Bay = Hurricane Zone):

- 1.2–2% base rate +25% hurricane surcharge +15% new owner premium
- ~ \$1,075 first year

Storage:

- Wet Slip: \$6,000 + \$300–600 utilities
- Dry Storage: \$3,600 + ~\$1,050 in launch fees

Jay's Tip: Wet slip = convenience, dry storage = savings if using <2x/month

Maintenance (Saltwater Standards, Year 1):

- Engine Service: \$500
- Systems Check: \$1,000
- Bottom Paint: \$275
- Haul & Pressure Wash: \$375
- Detailing (2x): \$600
- ➡ \$2,750 annually

Safety & Gear Setup (One-time):

- Coast Guard kit: \$500
- Electronics: \$1,500
- Anchor, lines, fenders: \$750
- ➡ \$2,750 upfront

✓ Year 1 Projection (on \$50K boat): \$67K–75K

Ongoing Annual Costs (Years 2–5)

Fuel (example 25 outings/yr, 5 hrs, 2.5 GPH, \$4.50/gal): \$1,400

Insurance:

- Year 2: \$970
- Year 3: \$920
- Year 4–5: ~\$950 avg

Maintenance Escalation:

- Routine: \$2,000–2,500 (yrs 2–3) → \$2,500–3,500 (yrs 4–5)
- Components: \$800–1,500 (yrs 2–3) → \$1,500–3,000 (yrs 4–5)
- Refurbs: \$500–1,000 → \$2,000–5,000

Unexpected Repairs (Murphy's Law):

- Yrs 1–2: ~\$1,500
- Yrs 3–5: ~\$2,000–3,000

5-Year Ownership Reality

Example 25' boat (Tampa Bay):

- Year 1: ~\$71K (with acquisition)
- Year 2–5: ~\$12K–16K each
- 5-Year Total: ~\$130K
- Average Annual: ~\$26K
- Cost per Day (125 outings/5 yrs): ~\$208

Cost Offsets

Charter Potential:

- Half-day trips: $\$400-600 \times 8 = \$4,000$
- Full-day trips: $\$800-1,200 \times 4 = \$4,000$
- Sunset cruises: $\$300-500 \times 6 = \$2,400$
- ➡ Gross \$10,400 → Net ~\$5,400 after insurance & maintenance

Shared Ownership:

- Two-family: 50% cost share
- Boat club: \$300–800/mo, 4–8 days/month
- Fractional: 25–33% cost, high management

DIY Savings:

- Washing/waxing: Save ~\$450/yr
- Oil changes: Save ~\$125/yr
- Minor repairs: Save ~\$500/yr
- ➡ ~\$1,075/yr savings

Financial Planning Framework

The 30% Rule:

- Max boat value = 30% of annual income
- Example: \$100K income = \$30K max boat
- Annual = ~25% of boat value
- Example: \$50K boat = \$15K/yr

Emergency Fund:

- Engine failure: \$3K–15K
- Hull damage: \$1K–8K
- Electrical: \$500–3K
- ➡ Recommended reserve: \$7,500+

Tampa Bay–Specific Costs

- Hurricane prep: \$600 haul-out + \$350 storage premium + \$200 gear + \$1,500 deductible risk
- Saltwater premium: +\$500–1,000/yr for corrosion & flushing
- Bottom paint: \$300–500/yr
- Local slips: \$12–25/ft wet, \$8–16/ft dry (location-dependent)

✓ Final Reality Check

- 5-Year Total Investment: ~\$130K
- Annual Average Cost: ~\$26K

- **Cost per Use: ~\$208/day (if 25 days/year)**

Captain Jay's Closing Word:

"If you're stretching to buy, you can't afford to own. Boats reward planning and punish assumptions. Buy what you can maintain properly."

About Anchor & Trade

Greater Tampa Bay | Florida's Gulf Coast

We deliver premium charters, expert brokerage, and financial buyer concierge services. Backed by the Boht Captain Network's collaborative 25+ years of ownership cost expertise.

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Note: Content created in September 2025. Water depth, businesses, restaurants, and market costs/trends change often. Always verify before you go out or purchase. Boating and monetary investments carry risk(s). Consulting a financial or legal advisor is recommended for decisions beyond general guidance.

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