

Two years ago we went for a "donut run" from our home on Decatur Island to Roche Harbor. It was the middle of July, but unseasonably cold and rainy and we were in an open Boston Whaler. Before we left the dock on Decatur we installed all of the canvas and plastic windows in an attempt to protect ourselves from the elements, but we were still soaked 45 minutes later when we arrived at Roche.

After breakfast we walked down to the boat to head back home. It was raining harder than when we had arrived, and from the end of the dock we could see, or more accurately, not see, how bad the visibility

was. Fog had rolled in, limiting visibility to only about 100 feet.

So, our options were limited. We took turns warming up inside the restaurant and sitting with the two wet Golden Retrievers outside on the cold, wet boat for several hours before the fog started to lift and we ventured out of the marina.

After several hours of picking our way through the fog, soaked and cold, we arrived back home. We immediately started looking at

pilothouse boats. The C-Dory stood out for a number of reasons.

First, it is an extremely economical boat, both to buy and use. We burn half the fuel in the C-Dory that we did in the Whaler and storage

costs the same. We also loved the classic style of the C-Dory.

Nobody mistakes it for a cookie cutter boat and everyone recognizes the quality, reliability, and durability of a C-Dory. Finally, we love the big pilothouse. Most other pilothouse boats in the 22 foot range have much smaller pilothouses than the C-Dory.

Last August I was heading to the San Juans from Seattle on a rainy Friday afternoon. I got to the marina, ran down to the boat, and switched the Wallas on while I loaded all of our gear aboard.

By the time we were heading out of Swinomish Channel the cabin was 70 degrees, the wipers were keeping the windshield clear, the Honda was humming along at 4200 RPM, and the chartplotter and radar provided exact information on our location and other boats around us. We were warm, dry, and comfortable. For anyone commuting in the Northwest a pilothouse boat is a must and C-Dory makes a near perfect boat for this.

Sam

2008 22 Cruiser – Retriever

