

FISHING IS BIGGER THAN EVER

All anglers, whether expert or novice, are expected to applaud the addition of the “Fish NOW Expo” to this year’s Progressive Mid-America Boat Show. It’s the largest fishing orientation in the boat show’s long history.

Highlights include the first-ever appearance of the 5000-gallon glass-sided Berkley Tank featuring daily seminars by well-known Ohio anglers Jay Gillsillan and Jim Vitaro; two special presentations of “Kids Fishing 411” by outdoor broadcaster Dan Armitage; and angling seminars by tournament champions like Mark Brumbaugh, Jim Stedke, Travis Hartman, Ray Buddie and John Hageman.

Seminars and angling exhibits notwithstanding, fishing boat models ranging from the increasingly popular fishing kayaks to the triple outboard-powered mega-center-consoles will be found throughout the show.

For example, Cabela’s, a name synonymous with fishing and outdoor gear, will join the boat show for the first time. And, in a big way -- displaying fishing machines from Mako, Tracker and Nitro (also Tahoe sport boats and pontoons from Regency and Sun Tracker).

No names are bigger in center consoles than Regulator and Key West. Catawba Moorings will have its largest exhibit to date boasting a Regulator lineup that includes the 34, 31, 28 and 25-foot models. In addition, Key West will unveil a brand new 263 Center Console displayed with the Key West 21FS, 23FS and 23DFS.

Fishing models from Robalo and Alumacraft will also be ready for boarding in the Boat Masters Marine exhibit. Boat Masters, will also be exhibiting Chaparral, Crownline, Bennington and Godfrey models. Meanwhile, Beaver Park Marine will boast an all-center console display of Sea Fox Boats including the 186 commander, 226 commander, 249 Adventure Side Console, and 266 Commander. Regrettably, all new 286 Commander won’t be available for the show, now expected in February.

Other fishing models will be found in the exhibits of MarineMax showing Sailfish, and Portage Lakes Marine displaying Polar Kraft boats. MarineMax also features Sea Ray and Galeon yachts, while Portage Lakes will display a series of Regal Boats, too.

Pursuit Boats are famous for their fishing designs. The new Pursuit 408 center console model with triple Yamaha 350’s will lead a large South Shore Marine exhibit. They’ll also have two Grady White premiere showings of the 216 Fisherman and the 236 Fisherman, among other models.

Celebrating their 24th year of being one of Ohio’s biggest fishing boat dealers, Vic’s Sports Center will present a large exhibit of Ranger, Starcraft, and Starweld boats. They’ll also display the Ranger Reata pontoons that come complete with rod racks and seating with fishing in mind. Meanwhile, Happy Days Boating, with its traditionally large display, will offer the newest models from Parker as well as center consoles by Robalo and Tidewater. Happy Days will also display Chaparral.

The 2018 line up of center consoles from Cobia will make up a major part of the Pier 53 display. In addition, they'll offer fishing models from Skeeter and cruising boats from Monterey 21 to 40 feet.

The boat show will run for 4 days, January 18-21, in Cleveland's I-X Center. For up-to-date information, go to: www.clevelandboatshow.com

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