

# Power Cruising and Boating



When you talk about power boating and motor cruising in the company of a group of sailors they will inevitably suggest that they don't need foul weather gear because when it gets wet they can go below. Well they can, but they don't have to. Having been out to the start of the Round Gotland Race in Sandheim on the edge of the beautiful Stockholm archipelago in a Fairline 60, I experienced first hand just how wet it can be powering over a confused sea at 25 knots. Also, many boats are completely open to the elements and it doesn't get much wetter than driving a RIB.

## **Type of boats**

If you have been to a major boat show anywhere in the World, you will be only too aware of the importance of power boats to the marine industry. The choice is vast as is the price differential. The smaller and more open the boats, the greater the need for some performance clothing.

## **Duration**

On an open boat you are only likely to be out for the day but there is still plenty of opportunity to get wet and cold. You can spend a lot of time sitting so the need for thermals and mid layer can be just as great as when you are sailing.

## **Base Layer**

Wearing a base layer is not as essential for this type of boating in the same way as it is for more energetic and athletic sailing; you are unlikely to generate as much moisture. However, as a thermal layer it has no equal and cotton should still be avoided. Base layer is made in a thermal stretch fabric woven in a two yarn "bi-polar" system to enhance moisture vapour management; you'll find the fabric moves moisture away from the skin and traps air in the weave to keep you warm. It is also very quick drying.

The options are a crew or zip neck top and leggings and, for RIB driving, a one piece thermal suit can be worn under a drysuit.

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## Mid Layer

This is the insulating layer and is fleece based. Your options include i4 fleece jacket or smock, or the micro fleece Toasty top and pant. Whilst these are technical products they have been thoughtfully styled to comfortably and fashionably wear ashore as well as afloat. If you are driving a RIB or are going to be out in particularly cold weather, the Crosswind shelled fleece should be considered. This is fleece based with a windproof and water resistant outer fabric, is excellent when travelling at speed and when you don't need full specification wet weather gear.

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i4 fleece, Mid Layer, Toasty micro fleece

## Waterproof layer

There is a huge choice of wet weather protection when it comes to the power and general boating category. Much depends on the range of temperatures you are likely to encounter. In mild climates or for summer use, a lightweight jacket in a breathable fabric is ideal. If it really is for occasional use and you are not looking for a fully waterproof garment then the Gill Island jacket is adequate. The next step up adds fully taped seams, a hood and a storm flap over the zip.

If you are looking for something more for all weathers then the Coast jacket offers a slightly heavier fabric, is longer and has one or two more features e.g. inner storm cuffs and reflective patches. It is an excellent all-round jacket, not looking out of place in the town and country as well as on board.

If you are looking for more flexible all-weather protection, the Coast jacket provides a slightly heavier fabric, is longer and has one or two more features e.g. inner storm cuffs and reflective patches, It is an excellent all round jacket and looks as good on shore as it does on board.



The Coast Lite Jacket offers full waterproof protection in a light weight jacket that can be worn off and on the boat.

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We then move on to fleece lined deck coats. These are available in different lengths and fabrics and are an excellent way of combining a waterproof garment with a warm jacket.

Driving a RIB through big seas at 20 knots can be as wet as sailing an Open 60 in the Southern Ocean and the clothing requirements are not dissimilar. A full drysuit gives the most complete protection having the benefit of latex seals. If more conventional two piece waterproofs are preferred then the Gill Ocean Racer would be ideal.

See pages 7,10, 11,13, 26 & 27 of Gill 2003 Catalogue

For further information on your product selection contact the Gill Technical Clothing Specialist on 01159 460844  
Or e-mail [TCS@gilluk.com](mailto:TCS@gilluk.com)  
Or visit [www.gillmarine.com/](http://www.gillmarine.com/)

## Gill Product Selector and What to Wear Guide

	Base Layer	Mid layer	Waterproof	Footwear	Accessories	
<b>Power &amp; General Boating</b>	Crew Neck	i4 Jacket	Coast Lite	A,W	Tall Boots	Deckhand Glove A,C
	Zip neck i4	smock	Coast	A,F	Short boot	Helmsman Glove A,C
	Leggings		Blizzard Jacket	A		Hats & Socks A
	Toasty Top		Breaker Jacket	A		Holdalls
	Toasty Pants		Crew Jacket	A		
<b>Rib Driving</b>	As above +		Island Jacket	W		
	one piece		Crosswind Jacket		Tall Boots	Helmsman Glove A,C
			Ocean Racer	A		
			Crosswind		Short boot	Gill Drysuits A
	Salopette					Hats & Socks A
					Holdalls	

A denotes all seasons

W denotes warm conditions

F denotes Female specific sizes available

J denotes Junior sizes available