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Abstract Title: Twentieth Century Racing, Waterfowl Hunting, and Bootlegging Boats of North Carolina

Abstract Description: During spring semester 2022 East Carolina University students conducted a class project in collaboration with the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The team documented and researched the history of several local boats associated with leisure activities. The Currituck Power Skiff ca. 1930 was popularly used in the shallows of Currituck Sound, the premier waterfowl area in the country catering to wealthy sportsmen from across the globe. The Moth sailboat Southern Cross Number 122 constructed in 1931 was sailed by ‘Peggy’ Kammerman in Elizabeth City. Her brother-in-law, Joel van Sant, designed these moth boats in 1929. He created boat building opportunities for local adolescents to reduce attraction to illegal coastal activities at the time, especially bootlegging. The moth class boat was linked to renowned gangsters running out to floating booze warehouses located outside national waters on the “rum line” during the prohibition. Apba is a 1971 class-C racing hydroplane developed in the 1920s and standardized in the 1950s. The hydroplane was used recreationally during the on lakes in the Charlotte area. The authors explore the design and performance of these three classic boat types, as well as the intriguing social history surrounding the use.

2022 Beaufort Maritime Museum Work – History and Archaeology of Small Watercraft (ecu.edu)