



Boat show floats fleet of new gear

DESPITE economic doom and gloom among some industry operators, Queensland's luxury boat market is steering its way out of a trough.

Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show general manager Barry Jenkins predicts this week's program, which has attracted 450 exhibitors, will be the beginning of a turnaround.

"In our industry, we have seen these peaks and troughs before," he said.

"In my opinion, we have started to pull out of a trough."

The number of exhibitors might be slightly down, but the 395 boats on the water are bigger and more expensive — and promoters say they would

stretch 5.17km if moored bow to stern.

The 20th annual show, from Thursday to Sunday, is expected to attract more than 50,000 boaties who can attend 120 world product launches in the biggest boat trade show in the Asia Pacific region.

Gold Coast City Marina director Dean Leigh-Smith has already sold a \$1.78 million motor yacht.

The Alaska 56 Pilothouse, which costs \$4500 to fuel, will have its world launch at the show. It was bought by a Brisbane businessman before it even arrived at the show.

Paul Weston



SOLD: Diedre Bounds on board the \$1.78 million motor yacht

Picture: **Luke Marsden**