



DOMINICK LACOMBE

President

AMERICAN CUSTOM YACHTS



BILLFISHING AMERICAN STYLE

Years of rugged 100-mile canyon runs off the coast of New Jersey gave Captain Dominick LaCombe a unique insight into the need for stronger, lighter boats with a more efficient hull design. He was determined to create such a vessel.

By the time LaCombe founded American Custom Yachts in 1991, he was already well-established in the industry, having supervised the construction of the world's fastest diesel-powered sportfisherman—an 80-footer built in 1989 that achieved top speeds in excess of 48 knots (54.6 mph).

In 1993, ACY launched their first cold-molded custom sportfisherman featuring a unique water-slicing hull design—the *Freedom 58*. Today, with hull number twelve underway, ACY has set new standards worldwide for strength, speed and comfort, offering both contemporary and traditional profiles up to 120 feet, including a dramatic enclosed flybridge design. Each vessel is meticulously handcrafted to meet the owner's specific needs.

When it comes to billfishing, few boat builders can boast a record like American Custom Yachts. Redefining

the term “research and development,” ACY has tested a series of *Freedom* flagships in the world's most productive fishing grounds.

In 1996, angler Damon Chouest set a new individual angler world record for Atlantic blue marlin aboard the *Freedom 63*, releasing 168 fish within the calendar year off St. Thomas and Venezuela. *Freedom* also won the St. Thomas Fourth of July Tournament that year. The following year, angler Dino Chouest dominated a field of 90 boats with 260 anglers from ten countries, taking top honors with six first-place trophies in San Juan's 44th Annual Billfish Tournament.

In 1998 and 1999, a new 65-foot *Freedom*, called “a perfect boat” by former *Marlin* magazine editor David Ritchie, dominated the Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic both years. During this two-year span *Team Freedom* also traveled to Brazil and Africa's Cape Verde Islands, releasing a combined total of 14 blue marlin (weighing up to 700 pounds) in 24 days of fishing. *Team Freedom* followed up with two trips to Baja in 2000, releasing a combined total of 182 striped marlin in nine days.

Their most recent adventure was a six-day run to St. Thomas in September

2002, releasing 22 out of 44 blues. Angler Damon Chouest finished the trip with a career total of 419 Atlantic blue marlin.

“Many boat builders like to talk about performance, but when it comes to sportfishing, just look at the results,” stated LaCombe.

ACY operates a 28-acre “one-stop” marine service facility on the Okeechobee Waterway in Stuart, Florida, offering easy access from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Florida's premier tower manufacturer, Bausch-American Towers, is also located on site. Call 772-221-9100, or visit them online at www.americancustomyachts.com. 

