

# hands free Kayak fishing

Colin Davies was so impressed by the Hobie Kayak Mirage Drive System that he's tempted to splash out himself!

## The way to fish

I'll admit I'm a layman when it comes to kayak fishing, but when I saw Steve Newton, of Hobiecat (UK), trolling two rods off a craggy South Devon headland in his Hobie Outback Fisherman, whilst being propelled by its MirageDrive system, I thought this has got to be the way to fish from a kayak.

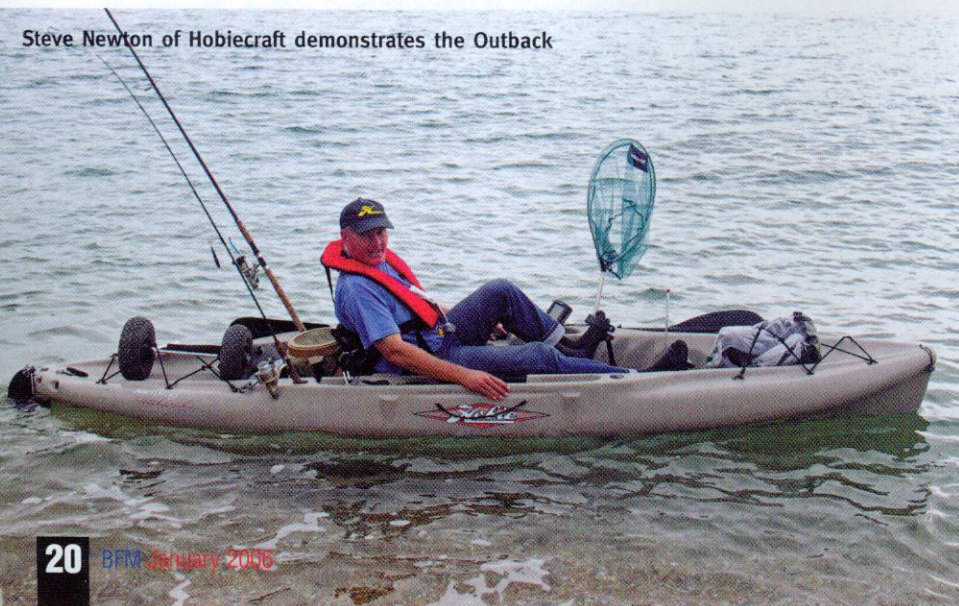
## Revolutionary

This revolutionary new propulsion system comprises an easily removable pedal drive that converts an easy pushing motion of the legs into a high torque, forward motion. The drive is connected to two underwater blades, which work like a penguin's fins, propelling the kayak easily and smoothly. Using short pedal strokes with the blades against the hull will propel the kayak through only inches of water. Hobie states that the MirageDrive converts the effort of the human body into forward thrust more efficiently than a paddle.

## Fins

The volume of water that the MirageDrive acts upon is approximately proportionate to the area that the fins sweep in one cycle, or about 226 square inches. A basic paddle stroke acts upon about 90 square inches. Acting on a larger volume of water, slowly in comparison to a paddle, The MirageDrive also creates less turbulence. You'll still need a paddle for reversing, though. When it comes to fishing, the system is hands free: after all, fishing is a hands on sport.

Steve Newton of Hobiecraft demonstrates the Outback



Steve demonstrates the stability of the kayaks



### New arrivals

Steven Newton has been kayaking for some years and first saw the Hobie models whilst on a visit to California, their home base. Being a keen angler he tried one out and was so impressed he had one shipped to his home in Dartmouth, South Devon, there being no UK importer. His 12'1" Outback Fisherman generated such a lot of interest back home that he made an approach to Hobie, resulting in Steven becoming their sole UK importer, with the first Hobie MirageDrive Kayaks arriving at his Dartmouth base in September 2005. He now has regular shipments with the 9'7" Sport Fisherman and 12'1" Outback being available, in a selection of colours, off the shelf.

### Value

It has been said that at about £1,000 a time the Outback is more expensive than your average kayak, but according to Steven it's a question, as always, of you get what you pay for. The quality of finish and price that includes, rod holders, anchor kit, paddles, adjustable high back seat, cooler, tackle box, kayak cart, not forgetting the MirageDrive system, makes this a value-for-money package.

### Impressed

I met Steven at the picturesque and very

fishy Blackpool Sands (South Devon, not your north east venue) to see the Hobie being put through its paces. He was accompanied by Stuart Taylor from nearby Totnes. Stuart has been kayak fishing around the South Devon coast for a couple of years and after meeting Steven in his Hobie on one trip, was so impressed that he bought one of the Sport Fisherman models as soon as Steven unpacked his first delivery. Having no connection with Hobie Kayak UK, I was able to get an unbiased view from Stuart and his enthusiasm for the craft almost matched that of Steven's.

Stuart Taylor with the MirageDrive system



### Fish friendly

I put one comment I was aware of to both men and that was, If you don't want to paddle, you don't want a kayak. Why not get a small boat? The reply was that The

Hobie MirageDrive allows kayak fishing to become a more hands-on sport, and makes for a very fish and fisherman friendly kayak. You don't have to have a paddle to be a kayak fisherman.

### Effortless

On my arrival at Blackpool Sands I had observed the two Hobies trolling a pair each of rapala baited rods across the bay and I watched as Steven played one bass whilst pedalling to keep action in his second rapala. Later the same effortless, hands free, drive allowed both men to explore the many small coves and rocky outcrops of the bay whilst at the same time casting into likely fish holding areas. Now I do like my big boat, big engine, someone else driving type of fishing, but I could easily be reaching for the cheque-book next time I see Steven Newton.

Check out the Hobie Kayak and MirageDrive at [www.hobiecat.com](http://www.hobiecat.com) The site has a video clip of the MirageDrive system in action, or give Steven a call on 01803-832135 or email: [admin@oasispromotions.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:admin@oasispromotions.fsnet.co.uk)

Look, no hands! trolling two rod, propelled by MirageDrive system

