

Hamilton Jet Model HM521
 Application Review

First Hamilton Jet Powered Ferry in Boston Harbor Fleet



Boston Harbor is one of the busiest waterways in the world for waterjet powered commuter ferries. One of the most recent fast passenger ferries to begin operating in the area is the 30 metre catamaran 'Athena', owned and operated by Island Hi-Speed Ferry. This vessel carries 256 passengers on a route between Galilee and Block Island at a speed of 34 knots.

Island Hi-Speed Ferry is a new joint venture between Boston Harbor Cruises and local interests, and Athena is the first Hamilton Jet powered ferry in Boston Harbor Cruises' fleet. The vessel was designed by International Catamaran Designs of Australia and built by Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding of Somerset, Massachusetts.

Athena's hull features Incat's single chine Z-bow shape to improve high-speed performance and sea-keeping ability. She also utilises a Maritime Dynamics trim tab ride control system.

High fuel capacity and economy give Athena a

range of 300 nautical miles (560km) or nine hours. The large fresh water and sewerage capacity is also important to reduce turnaround times during a busy working day.

The 12-mile trip between Block Island and Galilee takes 30 minutes, including eight minutes of running at reduced speed through Block Island's New Harbor. During peak season Athena is scheduled for six return crossings daily. To date the vessel has been exceeding expectations, with over 700 passengers per day on weekdays and over 1,000 per day on weekends.

Passenger seating is split between two levels both

▶ Brief Specifications	
NAME: Athena	RANGE: 300nm
SERVICE: Fast Passenger Ferry	WATERJETS: Quad Hamilton Model HM521
LENGTH: 30.40 metres [LOA]	ENGINES: Quad Caterpillar diesels Model 3412E, each 820kW (1100hp) @ 2100rpm
BEAM: 9.35 metres	GEARBOXES: ZF Model 1950 [Reduction]
DRAUGHT: 2.00 metres	DESIGNER: Incat Designs, Sydney, Australia
CONSTRUCTION: Aluminium	BUILDER: Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding, Somerset, MA, USA
PAYLOAD: 256 Passengers	OWNER/OPERATOR: Island Hi-Speed Ferry, Point Judith, MA, USA
CAPACITIES: 7,570 litres fresh water 1,135 litres sewerage	Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR: Atlantis Marine Gear, Topsfield, ME, USA
SPEED: 34 knots [service]	

inside and outside. The main saloon accommodates 130 people, while the upper saloon, behind the wheelhouse, has 54 seats inside and 72 on the open aft deck.

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