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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BEAUFORT COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Yesterday, NCEast Alliance and Beaufort County welcomed Caldwell Marine Designs to Washington, NC. Caldwell Marine Designs is the exclusive contract manufacturer for Sea Cat Boats. Sea Cat has developed a newly designed hybrid boat for the 2019 model year. Caldwell will immediately begin manufacturing the 26 foot model at the Washington facility in the Washington-Beaufort County Industrial Park.

"Sea Cat is excited to have Caldwell Marine Designs build our boats," stated Forrest Munden, President/CEO of Sea Cat, LLC. "Pete Caldwell has built quality boats his entire professional career. and I have known Pete for years. We are excited to have partnered with Caldwell for the manufacture of our newly designed "hybrid Sea Cats" said Mr. Munden. "Sea Cat hopes to expand its line to include 18 foot and 36 foot models in the near future".

Mr. Munden has been in the boat building business for 30 years, leading other successful boat manufacturing companies in eastern North Carolina. He bought the SeaCat brand several years ago and revived it when a group of investors approached him about re-entering the industry. Those investors primarily reside in Mississippi.

"Thank you to Vann Rogerson at NCEast Alliance and Martyn Johnson from Beaufort County Economic Development Office for helping us get to today's announcement" said Pete Caldwell, owner of Caldwell Marine Designs. "We have completed our first boat. We are now ready to begin production and the AAF Flanders vacant building provides flexibility for future growth," stated Mr. Caldwell. "Thank you to AAF Flanders for enabling the quick launch of the new Sea Cat line".

"We welcome Caldwell Marine today to Beaufort County" says Jerry Evans, Chairman of the Beaufort County Commissioners. "Our citizens appreciate the jobs provided by our local employers. We are excited that Caldwell chose Beaufort County to locate its manufacturing facility. Caldwell Marine Designs fits well in the boat building heritage that exists in our county".

"NCEast works hard to recruit good jobs to Eastern North Carolina" said Mark Hamblin, NCEast Alliance Chairman. "Caldwell Marine Designs' production of Sea Cat Boats is a win for all of The East and our organization pledges our continued support for Pete and his team in the future."

Caldwell Marine Designs will be the seventh boat manufacturing facility in Beaufort County, expanding the robust cluster of companies in the marine trades industry that inhabit eastern North Carolina.

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Useful Links:

[www.seacatboats.com](http://www.seacatboats.com)

<https://youtu.be/s5JYjNiui40>

[www.nceast.org](http://www.nceast.org)

<https://co.beaufort.nc.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nceastalliance/videos/2079509212136034/>



*The NCEast Alliance is a regional, public/private, not-for-profit, economic development corporation serving 26 counties with approximately 1.2 million residents within several small metropolitan and micropolitan areas in eastern North Carolina from the fringe of the Research Triangle to the Atlantic Coast. The Alliance provides community capacity building, marketing/lead generation, and assists companies with site location and expansion evaluations.*