



## TWINS, TRIS OR QUADS?

It's a pretty difficult question to answer... And it all depends on where you sail, who you are, and what exactly it is you want to do! Therefore we'll just tell you the pros and cons of each and let you make up your own mind.

### TWINS

One characteristic that stands out above all others when you stick two fins in the bottom of your waveboard is how loose it feels. And it's this that helps the board change direction in an instant, which generally makes them extremely good for riding waves where you constantly need to alter your angle of attack in order to smack the lip – Euro style waves being a good example. They also tend to be very good at doing a full top turn where you hit the lip and slide the tail right out, even in the smallest of waves, making the rider look and feel more radical. They don't tend to perform quite as well as their single-fin counterparts when blasting in chop, so you have to remember they've primarily been designed with wavesailing and not high wind bump-&-jump in mind. Having said that, some of the twins this year did perform very well in those exact conditions. Most of the test team mentioned that if they were to purchase a twin-fin for UK sailing, the board would be their second smallest, with a volume that corresponded roughly to their weight with perhaps a few extra litres for added float in gusty conditions. And they would couple this with a single-fin of about 10L smaller for when conditions were well powered 4.7m weather or below.

### TRIS

Custom shapers have been utilising tri-fin set-ups for quite a while now, so it was very interesting to see a production brand going this way for 2010. The tri-fins tended to follow a very defined arc through the bottom turn, and this was generally coupled with quite a lot of drive. Then off the top the tri-fins seemed to have huge amounts of grip, giving a nice controlled top turn. This often didn't feel as radical as throwing the tail out on a twin, but did provide confidence to drive a much more powerful turn on the face. We wouldn't say that either of these styles of riding is better or worse – they're just different. And we're pretty sure that most wavesailors have their own opinion on how they wish to ride and what looks good anyway, so it's up to you to decide. Our test team agreed that if they were to purchase a tri-fin for UK conditions, it might well be as their smallest board because of the control it would give on the wave-face in extreme conditions.

### QUADS

In the surfing world, top level professionals have been developing four-fin boards for a while now, so it was only a matter of time before our top waveriders followed suit. Although we only managed to get hold of the Starboard in time for this test, JP will most definitely be bringing out a quad-fin, and Quatro have been making customs with four fins for a while now, so there is some choice. The feedback from the test team was that a quad would probably sit in their quiver as the largest waveboard (80-88L) because of the extra drive they would gain out of the bottom turn on days with big surf and little wind. However, some also mentioned that they could possibly get a smaller one as well for those days when they're fully powered and need more control and grip on the face. Head straight to the individual write-up to see where the quad-fin excelled.

# Boards

WINDSURFING

**“These tend to be the first boards out of the van for an average sailor of 80kg when there's any sign of a wave, and it's 5.7m weather or below...”**