

# Choosing the right fin

by Alexander - A'ND distribution

**What are the 3 complementary elements of your windsurf equipment ?**

**The Board, the Sail and the Fin.**

The combination and the setup of those key elements determines the fun you have on the water.

Most windsurfers talk about the Board and Sail combination, often not considering the fin as an active element of their gear. In fact the fin needs to be carefully chosen and integrated in the package to increase the performance potential in most sailing conditions.

Think about it: The fin is the only part of your gear that keeps you going straight! Without a fin you would just be sliding sideways across the water.

Most manufacturers propose a diverse line of boards for different levels of use, but many do not provide the right fin for specific conditions and specific sailors needs. Boards available in stores already equipped at the factory with a fin have been tuned to sail in medium wind and for medium weight sailors. The latest trends in board designs reflects the importance of the right choice of the fin. Today some board manufacturers don't even supply fins with their boards as they realize that the different needs of individual sailors are too diverse.

**White Water** as an independent fin manufacturer optimizes the performance of your gear with a wide fin selection for any given board.

**How too choose the right fin for your needs?**

The chosen fin will be critical to the board performance and it's on the water behavior

## "SIZE"

. Three key-points are important to choose the perfect length for the fin:

- The size of the sail
- The size/volume of the board
- The weight of the sailor

Some common Board-sail-fin-combinations for medium weight sailors

### Free Ride

<b>Boardvolume</b>	130	145	160
<b>sailsiz</b>	7.5	7.5	8.0
<b>Finsize (cm)</b>	46-48	48-52	50-56

### Free Wave

<b>Boardvolume</b>	90	105	110
<b>sailsiz</b>	5.0	5.5	6.0
<b>Finsize (cm)</b>	24-28	26-28	26-28

## "Shape/Outline"

The size of the fin is very important as it determines the board's range of use in any given wind strength. But the shape and the outline shouldn't be neglected as well. The rake tells you something about the maneuverability of a fin. The more rake a fin has got the more maneuver-orientated it is, so it's easier to turn and gives better control in overpowered conditions. The straighter a fin is the more Race/Speed-oriented it is and it will better perform on up wind courses.

A selection of 3 fins usually covers a wide range of conditions. By matching one fin permanently to each sail, the sailor will be able to retain a similar feel within the whole range of the board and keep a constant level of performance.

**Pro-Tip:** *You can handle your board in overpowered conditions much longer by using a smaller fin before you start rigging a smaller sail.*

Keep one thing in mind:

You should be able to plane in light air, cruise in medium or ride hard in heavy wind, all with the same sensation.

Have fun

Alexander